

# WHAT IS GOARN?

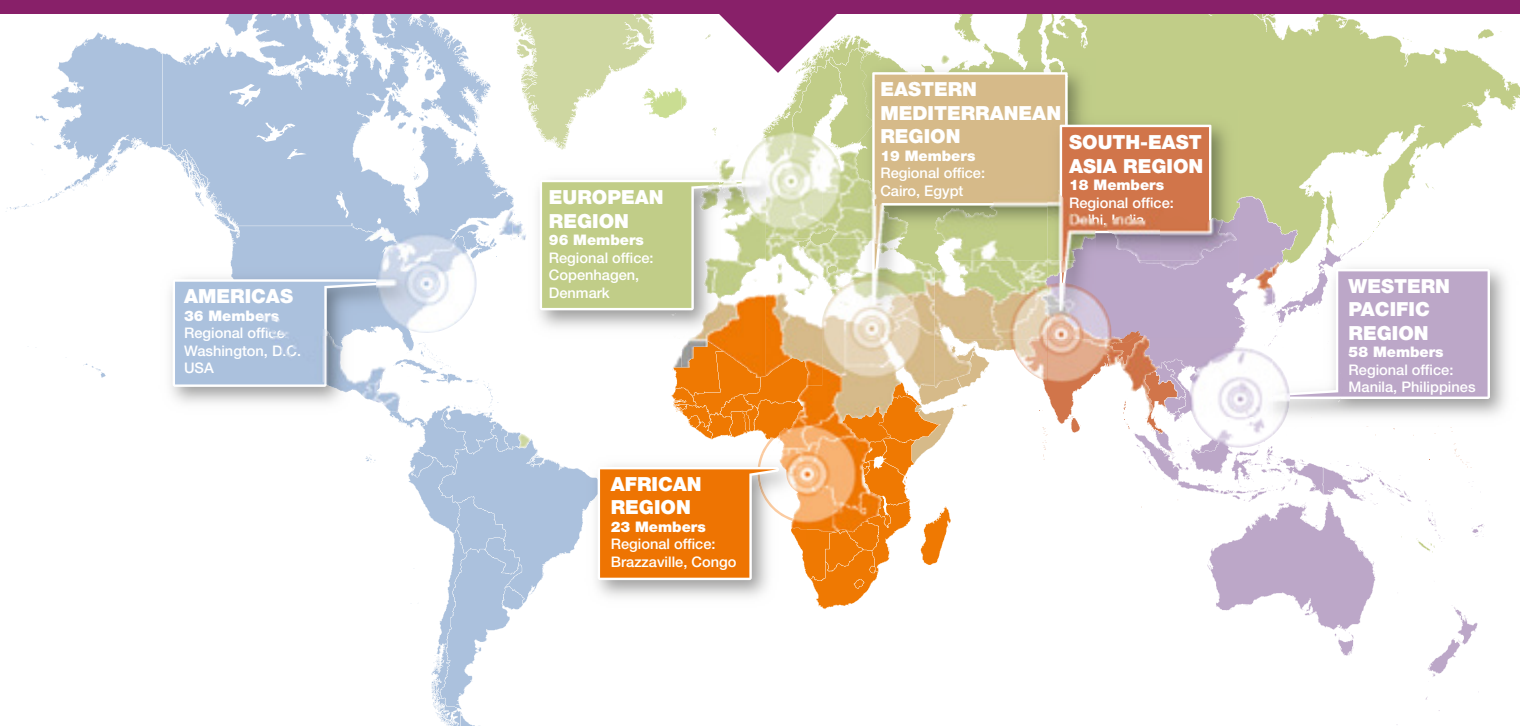
Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network

The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network – also referred to as GOARN – is a **global technical partnership**, established by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a key mechanism to engage the resources of technical agencies beyond the United Nations for rapid **identification, confirmation and response to public health emergencies** of international importance.

In our highly interconnected and populated world, diseases and threats to human health have the potential to travel fast and spread far. The international collaborative GOARN mechanism for rapid response and control is therefore the WHO's contribution to strengthening global health security.

## WHO IS GOARN ?

GOARN currently comprises over **250 technical institutions and networks** (and their members) across the globe. These Partners include medical and surveillance initiatives, regional technical networks, networks of laboratories, United Nations organizations (e.g. UNICEF, UNHCR), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC, IFRC), international humanitarian non-governmental organisations (e.g. Médecins Sans Frontières, International Rescue Committee, Epicentre), and national public health institutions. All have the ability to pool their resources rapidly to assist affected countries seeking support.





## WHAT DOES GOARN DO ?

The main objective of the network is to **provide technical support to WHO Member States experiencing a human health emergency** due to various threats including disease outbreaks, food safety, chemical toxins, zoonosis, natural and manmade disasters etc.

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135 operations  
2900 experts  
90 countries**

In 19 years, GOARN conducted over **135 operations** and deployed over **2900 experts** to assist more than **90 countries** across the globe.

At the request of a Ministry of Health, the Network delivers support to augment the overall WHO response to the public health emergency. Based on the varied and evolving needs of an emergency, this support could include:

- the deployment of technical experts to the affected countries, under the leadership of WHO,
- provision of technical advice through expert committees establish during the emergency,
- provision of resources for the response efforts, such as laboratory and operational logistics, tools and equipment to reinforce field teams, etc.

Beyond providing this direct assistance to public health emergency response, GOARN Partners may engage in the Network in several additional ways, including:

- Support for GOARN outbreak response training to strengthen the Network's capacity and Performance,
- Operational research and development of tools and technologies that support GOARN field teams in improving outbreak response interventions,
- Networking among GOARN Partners to share information and establish opportunities for outbreak response collaboration.

**Participation in GOARN is open to any nonprofit organization that has capacity to contribute to international outbreak alert and response. For more information on GOARN and participation in the Network please contact:**



**<https://extranet.who.int/goarn/>**

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**World Health  
Organization**

**GOARN**

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