

WHO Country Presence

2010 Report

Afghanistan Albania Algeria Andorra Angola Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Armenia Australia Austria Azerbaijan Bahamas Bahrain Bangladesh Barbados Belarus Belgium Belize Benin Bhutan Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Bosnia and Herzegovina Botswana Brazil Brunei Darussalam Bulgaria Burkina Faso Burundi Cambodia Cameroon Canada Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad Chile China Colombia Comoros Congo Cook Islands Costa Rica Côte d'Ivoire Croatia Cuba Cyprus Czech Republic Democratic People's Republic of Korea Democratic Republic of the Congo Denmark Djibouti Dominica Dominican Republic Ecuador Egypt El Salvador Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Estonia Ethiopia Fiji Finland France Gabon Gambia Georgia Germany Ghana Greece Grenada Guatemala Guinea Guinea-Bissau Guyana Haiti Honduras Hungary Iceland India Indonesia Iran (Islamic Republic of) Iraq Ireland Israel Italy Jamaica Japan Jordan Kazakhstan Kenya Kiribati Kuwait Kyrgyzstan Lao People's Democratic Republic Latvia Lebanon Lesotho Liberia Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Lithuania Luxembourg Madagascar Malawi Malaysia Maldives Mali Malta Marshall Islands Mauritania Mauritius Mexico Micronesia (Federated States of) Monaco Mongolia Montenegro Morocco Mozambique Myanmar Namibia Nauru Nepal Netherlands New Zealand Nicaragua Niger Nigeria Niue Norway Oman Pakistan Palau Panama Papua New Guinea Paraguay Peru Philippines Poland Portugal Qatar Republic of Korea Republic of Moldova Romania Russian Federation Rwanda Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Samoa San Marino Sao Tome and Principe Saudi Arabia Senegal Serbia Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syrian Arab Republic Tajikistan Thailand The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Timor-Leste Togo Tonga Trinidad and Tobago Tunisia Turkey Turkmenistan Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom United Republic of Tanzania United States of America Uruguay Uzbekistan Vanuatu Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) Viet Nam Yemen Zambia Zimbabwe

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■ List of abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Assessed Contribution
ADG	Assistant Director-General
AFR	WHO African Region
AFRO	WHO Regional Office for Africa
AMR	WHO Region of the Americas
AMRO	WHO Regional Office for the Americas
APO	Associate Professional Officer
CCS	Country Cooperation Strategy
DG	Director-General
EMR	WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region
EMRO	WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
EUR	WHO European Region
EURO	WHO Regional Office for Europe
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
GFATM	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GHI	Global Health Initiative
GIFT	Global Information Full Text
GPN	Global Private Network
GS	General Service (staff)
HCO	Head of Country Office
HQ	WHO Headquarters
HWCO	Head of WHO Country Office
ITT	information technology and telecommunications
JAS	Joint Assistance Strategy
JPO	Junior Professional Officer
LO	Liaison Officer
NPO	National Professional Officer
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PSRA	Palestinian Self-Rule Areas
RD	Regional Director
RO	WHO Regional Office
SEAR	WHO South-East Asia Region
SEARO	WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
SWAp	Sector-wide Approach
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
VC	Voluntary Contribution
WCO	WHO Country Office
WPR	WHO Western Pacific Region
WPRO	WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
WR	WHO Representative

■ Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) country presence is the platform for effective cooperation with countries for advancing the global agenda, contributing to national health strategies and plans, as well as for bringing country realities and perspectives into global policies and priorities.¹ WHO country presence therefore refers to the work of the Secretariat as a whole carried out through:

- *A physical WHO presence:* This represents the work of WHO carried out through country offices, including decentralized sub-offices in provinces and districts.
- *Coordinated support from other levels of the Secretariat.* This represents technical backstopping from the regional and Headquarters levels. This includes development of norms, technical support, programme management and coordination for country support, including inter-country teams and subregional hubs.

This present report is primarily concerned with the physical WHO country presence, or what is commonly referred to as the WHO country office. These are offices located at country level with an actual physical WHO team and representation in the form of a Head of WHO Country Office. As may be expected, the size of these offices (both in terms of human resources and of financial budget) differs across countries and WHO Regions.

This is a biennial publication. It presents information on WHO country offices (145 in total, plus four other offices which are covering territories or areas), Heads of WHO Country Offices (HWCOs) and some aspects of WHO's work in countries. In this document, the term WHO country office will also be used to denote the four other offices mentioned above (see Table 1 for a detailed explanation).

This report relies on two main data sources. The analysis of HWCOs is based on information extracted from the HWCO Information Database System in August 2009. This system has been maintained by the Department of Country Focus since September 2002.

The report also contains an analysis of responses received from a global survey on WHO country presence. This survey was organized by the Country Support Unit Network² and carried out with all WHO country offices from May to August 2009. The WHO Country Presence survey 2009 contained three main sections (please see Annex 1 for the full survey):

- **WHO country office** including questions on location and sub-offices, functions of WHO country teams, staffing, budget, information and communications technology, and knowledge management and sharing;
- **partnerships at country level** including questions on the participation, engagement and role of WHO in national development processes, sectoral coordination

¹ See p. 94 of WHO Medium-term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2008–2013 (http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/AMTSP-PPB/a-mtsp_3en.pdf).

² The network comprises the Technical Cooperation with Countries Unit of the WHO Regional Office for Africa, the Country Focus Support Unit at the WHO Regional Office for the Americas, the Office of the Assistant Regional Director at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, the Operations in Countries and Management Support Programme at the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Programme Planning and Coordination Unit at the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, the Country Support Unit at the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific and the Department of Country Focus at WHO Headquarters, Geneva.

platforms for health development, United Nations activities, global health initiatives and WHO collaboration centres;

- **use of WHO Country Cooperation Strategies** at the country level.

The survey was also made available in DataCol¹ and country offices were given the opportunity to complete the survey online. Some country offices submitted their responses via e-mail using a Microsoft Word template.

Data analysis

The response rate was 100% with surveys received from 145 WHO country offices and the four other offices (see Table 1). The data received were analysed using Microsoft Excel.

■ WHO Member States, regional and country offices

One hundred and ninety-three countries are WHO Member States (see Annex 2: WHO Member States) and two are Associate Member States (Puerto Rico and Tokelau). One country is an observer (Vatican).

WHO Headquarters are located in Geneva. Each WHO Region has a regional office:

- WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO) in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
- WHO Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO). The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington, DC, United States of America simultaneously serves as the WHO Regional Office for the Americas and as the specialized health agency of the inter-American System (PAHO/WHO).
- WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) in New Delhi, India
- WHO Regional Office for Europe (EURO) in Copenhagen, Denmark
- WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) in Cairo, Egypt
- WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) in Manila, the Philippines.

In addition to the regional and Headquarters offices, WHO has 145 country offices that cover 159 Member States (see Tables 1 and 2 and Annex 3: WHO country offices and representation). There are also two field offices: the WHO Office, Pristina, and the West Bank and Gaza office in the Palestinian Self-Rule Areas (PSRA). An additional two offices cover different areas: the US–Mexican Border Field Office in El Paso, Texas, United States of America and the Office of the Caribbean Program Coordination located in Barbados.

Thirty-five countries have no WHO country office (see Table 2). In actuality, this figure is higher than 35 – however, there are countries which do not have a physical WHO country office but are served by the WHO Representative to another country. For instance, the WHO Representative to Malaysia covers not just Malaysia but also Brunei Darussalam and Singapore (but there is only one country office located in Malaysia).

¹ *DataCol is a web-based tool that simplifies the online and off-line form creation process. It is used by many WHO staff as a means for data collection, online surveys and data presentation. For more information please see: <http://intranet.who.int/homes/iwa/applications/datacol/index.shtml>*

Table 1: WHO Member States, country offices and other offices, by WHO Region

WHO Region	Number of Member States in WHO Region	Number of WHO country offices	Other WHO offices
WHO African Region	46	46	0
WHO Region of the Americas	35	27	2 ^a
WHO South-East Asia Region	11	11	0
WHO European Region	53	29	1 ^b
WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region	21	17	1 ^c
WHO Western Pacific Region	27	15	0
Total	193	145	4^d

^a United States–Mexico Border, Field Office located in El Paso, Texas, United States of America and the Office of the Caribbean Program Coordination located in Barbados.

^b WHO Office, Pristina.

^c West Bank and Gaza office located in the Palestinian Self-Rule Areas (PSRA).

^d Other territories or areas.

Table 2: WHO Member States without a WHO country office, by WHO Region

WHO Region	Member States
WHO African Region	–
WHO Region of the Americas	Canada, Puerto Rico ^a , United States of America
WHO South-East Asia Region	–
WHO European Region	Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vatican (observer)
WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region	Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates
WHO Western Pacific Region	Australia, Japan, Tokelau ^a
Total	34

^a Puerto Rico and Tokelau are Associate Member States.

AFRO is responsible for the largest number of country offices (46). SEARO is responsible for the smallest number of country offices (11), but this regional office deals with some of the most densely populated countries of the world, e.g. Bangladesh, India, and Indonesia.

Some countries have WHO liaison offices and out-posted offices (these are not considered as country offices). They are:

- the WHO Office at the European Union in Brussels, Belgium
- the WHO Office at the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- the WHO Liaison Office in Washington (in Washington, DC, United States of America)
- the WHO Office at the United Nations in New York, United States of America.

There are also the following technical offices which are not considered country offices:

- the WHO European Centre for Health Policy in Brussels, Belgium
- the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France
- the WHO Lyon Office for National Epidemic Preparedness and Response in Lyon, France
- the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies in Berlin, Germany
- the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Bonn, Germany
- the WHO Project Office, Mediterranean Action Plan in Athens, Greece
- the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Rome, Italy
- the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development in Venice, Italy
- the WHO Centre for Health Development in Kobe, Japan
- the WHO European Office for Integrated Health Care Services (Health Systems Financing) in Barcelona, Spain
- the WHO Mediterranean Centre for Vulnerability Reduction in Tunis, Tunisia
- the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies in London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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