

WHO presence in countries, territories and areas

1. The country presence report provides information on the functioning of all WHO offices in countries, territories and areas. The report is used for information purposes by WHO's senior management, Member States and partners. The present document provides a summary of the 2017 report together with an update on the preparation of the 2019 report.

2. The full report is divided into five sections, which describe: (i) who we are as an Organization (staff, infrastructure in countries, territories and areas); (ii) what we do to support Member States (in terms of providing technical support); (iii) how we do our work at country level (technical backstopping and financial resources); (iv) who we work with (partners at country level); and (v) what are the results of our work (selected achievements made in countries, territories and areas).

3. The information contained in the country presence reports was reviewed by all six regional offices and various departments at headquarters. The following information sources are used:

- an online country presence survey administered to all 149¹ heads of WHO offices in countries, territories and areas (with a 100% response rate for the 2017 and 2019 report);
- WHO's Global Management System, which provides information on human resources and finance, and the database of the Department of Country Cooperation and United Nations Collaboration with its information on heads of WHO offices in countries, territories and areas, and;
- external sources of data on engagement in global health initiatives such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; and the WHO Programme Budget portal,² among others.

THE 2017 COUNTRY PRESENCE REPORT

4. The 2017 country presence report³ aimed to provide an overview of information on WHO and its work at country level, and contained information from 2016. Key highlights are outlined below:

- Who we are: WHO has 148 offices in countries, territories and areas, six regional offices and a headquarters. It is governed by its 194 Member States and two Associate Member States

¹ For the 2017 report there were 148 heads of WHO offices and for the 2019 report the figure is 149.

² <http://open.who.int/2018-19/home>, accessed 30 October 2018.

³ WHO presence in countries, territories and areas: report 2017. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2017 (document WHO/CCU/17.04) (<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/255448/WHO-CCU-17.04-eng.pdf?sequence=1>, accessed 30 October 2018).

(Puerto Rico and Tokelau), represented by the World Health Assembly. In 37 of the 194 Member States, there is no WHO office, nor are they covered by other WHO offices from neighbouring countries. Instead, the respective regional offices and headquarters directly provide technical and normative support for these countries and areas.

- What we do: a total of 105 of the WHO country offices reported having up-to-date national health policies, strategies and plans. For 101 (96%) of the countries concerned, WHO assisted in initiating, developing, implementing and monitoring these national health policies, strategies and plans. Additionally, a total of 109 of the 148 countries, territories or areas in which WHO is physically present reported the existence of or undertaking work on their country cooperation strategies.¹
- How we do it: all 148 country offices reported receiving technical backstopping from WHO regional offices, headquarters or joint team missions. Among the 5400 missions conducted in 2016, 3445 (64%) were carried out by regional offices and 1442 (27%) by headquarters, and 513 (9%) were joint regional and headquarters missions. As at 31 December 2016, more than US\$ 2000 million was available for WHO country-level work under the WHO programme budget. These funds were distributed across all regions, as follows: African Region (45%), Eastern Mediterranean Region (30%), South-East Asia Region (10%), Western Pacific Region (6%), European Region (5%) and Region of the Americas (2%).
- Who we work with: 135 (91%) of 148 countries, territories and areas where WHO is physically present reported the existence of a United Nations Country Team. For 51% of countries, territories and areas with a WHO presence, WHO participation in Joint National or United Nations steering committees was reported. WHO country offices also played a leadership role in developing the health component of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework as a leader or co-leaders of the development group or mechanism in 98% of countries, territories or areas.
- What are the results of our work: A new component of the 2017 country presence survey was that it included a question on countries' measurable achievements made with WHO support. A total of 103 (70%) of the 148 WHO country offices provided information on country achievements with direct support by the Organization. A booklet describing all country offices' experiences was published in 2017.²

THE 2019 COUNTRY PRESENCE REPORT

5. The 2019 report is currently being prepared and will be submitted to the Seventy-Second World Health Assembly in May 2019. The report will contain data collected from 2018.

¹ A country cooperation strategy is WHO's medium-term strategic vision to guide the Organization's work in and with a country.

² The full report, on success stories, WHO country office experiences 2017 for the 9th Global Meeting, is available at: <http://intranet.who.int/homes/ccu/globalmeetings/9gm/countryofficeexperiences.shtml>, accessed 30 October 2018.

6. The report will follow the same structure as the previous report. However, it will also contain information provided in response to new questions that were added to the survey administered to the heads of WHO offices in countries territories and areas requesting information on the following:

- governments' approaches to implementing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of the WHO country office in supporting the government and partners in implementation of those Goals;
- WHO country office's support for South-South and/or triangular cooperation initiatives, including the names of initiatives that can be called good practices, between January 2017 and 31 July 2018. WHO country offices to report on major challenges faced in promoting South-South and/or triangular cooperation;
- main achievements on WHO's collaboration with the United Nations system and partners;
- country level success stories: as at October 2018, a total of 134 (91%) WHO country offices had provided information on achievements made with direct support from WHO.

7. The information in the 2019 report has been derived from an online country presence survey that was administered to and replied to by all 149 heads of WHO offices (100% response rate). WHO's Global Management system, the Secretariat's database of heads of WHO offices in countries territories and areas, other WHO reports and external sources are all sources of additional information.

8. Currently, data are being cleaned and verified in collaboration with all regional offices before analysis and interpretation. The final report will be made available in May 2019.

9. The 2019 country presence report will be uploaded onto the WHO Country Presence portal. The portal is a platform used to collect, analyse and generate information on WHO's country presence, support, partnerships, and the work of the WHO offices in countries, territories and areas.

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