

WHO LYON OFFICE:

SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES FOR STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITIES UNDER
THE SCOPE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005)

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY



WHO LYON OFFICE



WHO ARE WE ?

The WHO Lyon Office, not to be confused with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), grew out of vision of the French Government and the Grand Lyon, the Mérieux Foundation and WHO. The Lyon Metropolis was chosen to house the Office, which is part of WHO headquarters in Geneva, because of its scientific, institutional and industrial development strategy.

Lyon is an international hub in the area of life sciences : infectious diseases, oncology, neurosciences, medical technology and nutrition, which represent 60 000 jobs on biotechnology and health; it is home to the 1st vaccine production centre in the world, and Lyonbiopôle, the 1st global competitive pole for health in the Rhone-Alps Region (human and veterinary medicines, in vitro diagnostics, medical devices and medical technology).

Since its creation in 2001, the Who Lyon Office has benefitted from the sustained support of the French Government, the Pasteur Institute, the l'Institut de Veille Sanitaire, the Rhone-Alps Region, the Lyon Metropolis and the Mérieux Foundation.

The support of the financial and technical partners of the office is crucial to the success of the activities of the Office, which are carried out all over the world to help countries to strengthen their public health systems. Throughout the years, numerous technical and institutional partners have provided funding support in favour of the activities of the WHO Lyon Office, such as the European Union, and the governments of Brazil, Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Office is an essential part of the Outbreak and Health Emergencies Cluster, responsible for the coordination of the International Health Regulations (2005) in Geneva. The Office is comprised of a team of 25 staff representing 14 different nationalities.

AT THE HEART OF THE LYON-GERLAND BIODISTRICT

Based in the 7th arrondissement of Lyon since its inception, since 1 March the WHO Lyon Office is located at the heart of the Lyon-Gerland Biodistrict in the Tony Garner building at 24 rue Jean Baldassini, Lyon.

OUR MISSION: working for the most vulnerable countries at risk of major public health events

The WHO Lyon Office is a technical and scientific reference centre and hub for all countries for surveillance and response to epidemics and other health risks. Helping all countries around the world to strengthen their prevention, detection and public health response capacities is the mission of the office, which works in close collaboration with the six WHO regional offices and the WHO representations in the field in more than 150 countries. The International Health Regulations (2005) is the main international framework conceived to help protect countries against the international spread of diseases including public health risks and public health events of international concern. Effective implementation of the Regulations is more important than ever given the many public health risks the world faces today, for which borders offer no barrier against disease. Global health security is a top priority and the mission of the WHO Lyon Office is to help all countries to strengthen their public health capacities for prevention, detection, surveillance and response to disease and other major public health risks. The lack of a minimum level of core public health capacities for surveillance and response in many countries continues to limit effective preparedness against health emergencies such as the Ebola virus disease outbreak.

HIGHLIGHTS 2014 - 2015



NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE STRENGTHENING

20

countries in the African region are receiving support for strengthening their surveillance capacity

LABORATORY CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

150

laboratories in 70 countries are receiving support for strengthening their laboratory capacities



WHO AND ITS MULTISECTORAL PARTNERS: WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Beyond the health sector, implementation of the International Health Regulations requires close collaboration between all sectors that are potentially concerned by public health risks: animal health, transport, travel, customs, defence. Within this context, WHO works actively with international institutions such as the International Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

This cooperation results in the implementation of common technical projects developed by the WHO Lyon Office Teams. Over the last years the European Commission has provided financial support to far-reaching laboratory strengthening activities at the human-animal interface, and in the area of strengthening capacities for prevention and surveillance at ports and airports in geographical zones around the world that are prone to major health risks.

OUR ACTIVITIES

The activities of the WHO Lyon Office focus on public health capacity strengthening in collaboration with other essential sectors such as veterinary or transport, for the prevention surveillance and control of emerging or re-emerging diseases. This potentially covers chemical and radio-nuclear risks, as called for in the International Health Regulations (2005).

Projects and initiatives cover the following areas, which are considered crucial for strengthening global health security:

- Strengthening public health laboratory diagnostic capacity as well as biosecurity and biorisk in the laboratory environment
- Strengthening of national epidemiologic surveillance systems
- Strengthening surveillance and response capacities at ports, airports and ground crossings
- Learning, exercises and training on the application of the IHR (2005) with a focus on on-line tools and virtual simulation exercises
- Monitoring and evaluation of national capacities for prevention, alert and response.

In 2015, the entire WHO Lyon Office was mobilized to support the Ebola virus disease outbreak together with the deployment of staff to the field in Liberia and Sierra Leone.



THE WHO LYON OFFICE IN NUMBERS

14 different nationalities from all continents

25 technical and administrative staff recruited locally and internationally

800 experts from all over the world have come to Lyon to receive training

1 000 m² at the heart of the Lyon Biodistrict



POINTS OF ENTRY: PORTS, AIRPORTS AND GROUND CROSSINGS

800 port health specialists are being trained on the required IHR (2005) capacities



DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING

1 000 multisectoral professionals are receiving training delivered by the WHO Lyon Office and are registered on the Health Security Learning Platform



