



## Strengthening of the Collaboration Between the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) and the Postgraduate Training for Applied Epidemiology (PAE)

# GOPA

## Supporting GOARN Through Activities of PAE Fellows

### Duration

2020–2021

### Budget/year

approx. 85,000 EUR

### Partner countries

Global

### Challenges addressed by the project

The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) is a network of over 200 partner institutions from over 75 countries), which pools human and technical resources for rapid identification, confirmation and response to outbreaks of international importance. For the Robert Koch Institute, a strong and sustainable collaboration with GOARN is an integral part of its international strategy.

### Objectives

- » Support of GOARN activities at a WHO-GOARN office
- » Support of GOARN activities in WHO Member States and the training of PAE fellows

### Overview of activities

The Postgraduate Training for Applied Epidemiology (PAE) is a two-year, on-the-job training programme, principally financed by the RKI. It aims at increasing capacities in surveillance and outbreak investigations. The PAE works closely together with the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) and usually hosts one or two EPIET-fellows from other European countries. To strengthen the support of GOARN, PAE and EPIET-fellows have deployed on international assignments with GOARN and a PAE fellow will be seconded to the WHO in Geneva or to a regional WHO office for three months. Through this project an additional PAE fellow is being trained, which has started with cohort 2020.

Past deployments for GOARN were to Pacific Island Countries and Areas for a measles outbreak and to Lesbos, Greece, to support the COVID-19 response in a refugee camp (i.e. the implementation of a surveillance system and support for contact tracing). The GOPA activities are part of the support of the RKI as a WHO CC for GOARN; they will directly support GOARN's activities and increase the size and quality of the PAE programme.



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PAE-Fellow Dr Sofia Burdi (left) during a GOARN Mission in Lesbos, 2020 (Photo ©Hauke)



EPIET Fellow Dr Sonia Boender, Pacific Island Countries and Areas, 2019–2020



The RKI is the first GOARN collaborating centre worldwide



PAE-Fellow Nadine Muller, during a COVID-19 outbreak investigation, Germany, 2020

## Partner institution

World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland

## Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

Robert Koch Institute

Unit 38 | Unit for Crisis Management, Outbreak Investigation and Training Programmes

ZIG 1 | Information Centre for International Health Protection

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