

## Operationalisation of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)

# WHO CC GOARN

## Preparing Leaders for Public Health Crises

### Duration

2019–2021

### Budget/year

approx. 291,000 EUR

### Partner countries

Global

### Challenges addressed by the project

2020 has been an extraordinary year: the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world – and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) marked its 20th anniversary. In light of this current crisis as well as future global health challenges, Robert Koch Institute (RKI) as the worldwide first and only WHO Collaborating Centre for GOARN (WHO CC GOARN) is committed to support the further development of the network towards GOARN 2.0. Activities of the WHO CC GOARN are expected to contribute to improving global operational infrastructure and strengthening capacity building for disease outbreaks response and other public health events globally.

The Global Health Protection Programme (GHPP) supports the operationalisation of the WHO CC GOARN with this project. The focus lies on the development and implementation of a leadership training. This will serve to build crisis management and leadership skills for outbreak responders, capacitating them to act as role models in their own technical fields and as lead of mission teams, as well as fostering their ability to adapt and apply these skills to any kind of international public health emergency response and structure. The leadership training is designed in collaboration with various partner institutions and it is available, like other GOARN training opportunities, for countries that receive official development assistance (countries on the Development Assistance Committee list, DAC countries).

Within the scope of further capacity building activities, this GHPP project additionally supports the training and roll-out of Go.Data in partner countries. Go.Data is a digital tool designed by the World Health Organization (WHO) for outbreak investigation with focus on contact tracing, follow-up and chain of transmission. Go.Data aims to strengthen and enhance technical support for readiness activities, outbreak risk assessments, field investigations and response, including response research.

### Objectives

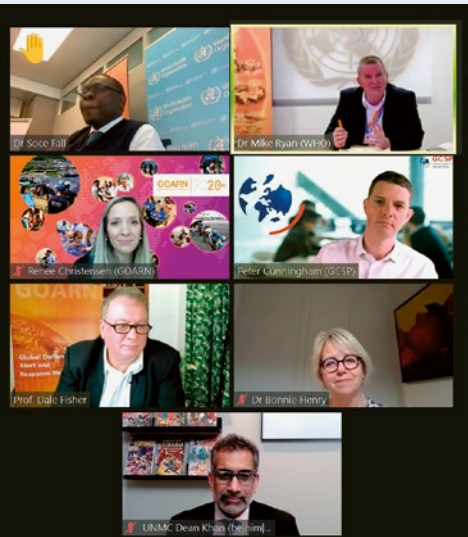
- » GOARN 2.0: Assisting in the development and implementation of GOARN 2.0 strategies to develop and strengthen network activities and capacity building measures
- » GOARN Leadership Training: Supporting the development, conceptual design, implementation, and coordination of a leadership training in the context of international health emergencies



Supported by:



on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag



The Leadership Seminar for COVID-19 outbreak response brought together 130 outbreak response leaders in the GOARN network and a diverse panel comprising of senior emergency response leaders (Photo©GOARN)

- » GOARN Capacity Building and Training Programme: Contributing expertise in specific working groups and contributing to the conception and development of content for other parts of the GOARN Capacity Building and Training Programme, e.g. GOARN-TEPHINET International Outbreak Response training workshop
- » Go.Data Training: Providing online introductory and orientation training for the Go.Data tool to be used in the context of outbreak response and filed data collection, including features and functionalities of the Go.Data tool
- » Go.Data Implementation: deployment of RKI team to support the roll-out of the Go.Data tool in partner countries

## Overview of activities

The further development of GOARN 2.0 has been supported by various deployments of RKI staff to the GOARN headquarter and to field missions.

The leadership training package has been created, pretested, and adjusted in 2019 and 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and concomitant travel restrictions, among others, the first round of training took place virtually. In 2021, several modules of the leadership training package have been converted into a virtual training format and are eventually rolled-out. Furthermore, various contributions were made to the overall GOARN Capacity Building and Training Programme.

RKI supported GOARN in Go.Data advocacy as an innovative tool for outbreak response in countries where a digital solution is not yet available. In 2020, RKI provided online trainings of Go.Data for Namibia and Tunisia. Furthermore, a RKI team was deployed to Kosovo and Namibia to support the implementation of Go.Data for COVID-19 response.

## Partner institutions

- » Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) at the World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland [extranet.who.int/goarn](https://extranet.who.int/goarn)
- » GOARN Outbreak Response Leadership Training Working Group, worldwide<sup>1</sup>

## Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

Robert Koch Institute

Centre for International Health Protection

ZIG 1 | Information Centre for International Health Protection

Dr Andreas Jansen, Dr Basel Karo [rki-who-cc-goarn@rki.de](mailto:rki-who-cc-goarn@rki.de)

[www.rki.de/en](http://www.rki.de/en)

<sup>1</sup> The Leadership Training Working Group is composed of 17 GOARN partner institutions who are actively involved in the development and roll-out of the leadership training.