

The WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence

Better data
Better analytics
Better decisions

Summary of the Annual Report 2024

The WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in 2024

The WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence was established in 2021 by WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and German Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As an integral part of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE), the WHO Hub plays a crucial role in helping Member States to have the capability to detect risks earlier, fostering collaboration in data sharing and joint analysis, and enhancing decision-making.

In 2024, the WHO Hub rapidly scaled up its operations and accelerated implementation across all initiatives. This report highlights the impact of the WHO Hub's work in 2024. It demonstrates how together with our partners we are strengthening capacities, tools, networks, and systems for detecting, monitoring, and managing public health threats worldwide.

Collaborative Surveillance

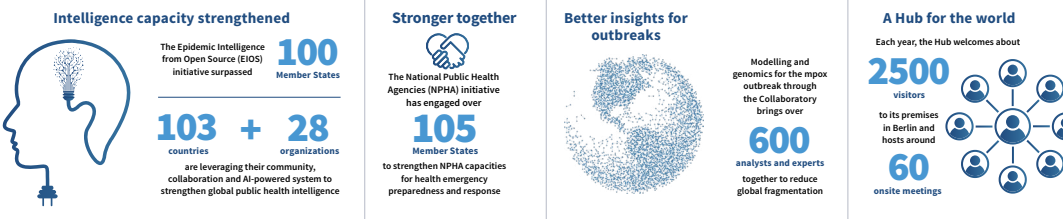
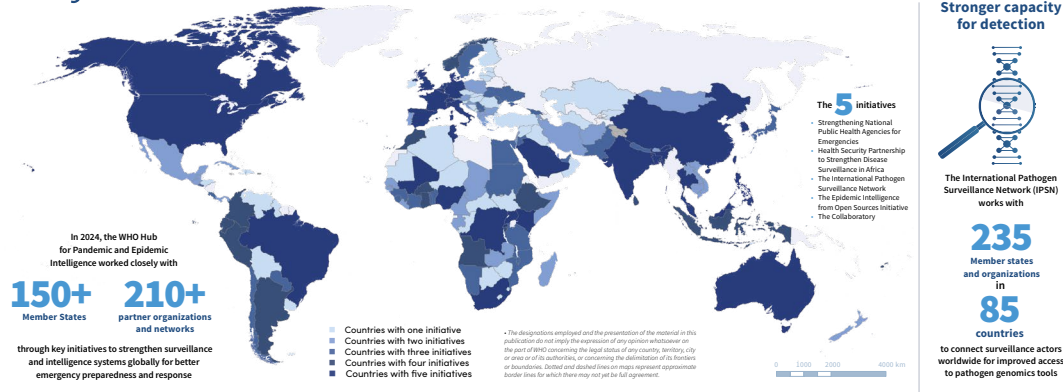
The guiding vision for our work is Collaborative Surveillance, which is “the systematic strengthening of capacity and collaboration among diverse stakeholders, both within and beyond the health sector, with the ultimate goal of enhancing public health intelligence and improving evidence for decision-making”.

After launching the vision in 2023, based on a shared recognition that stronger surveillance is essential for addressing future health emergencies, our focus in 2024 was to accelerate implementation. In collaboration with WHO's regional offices and implementing partners, the WHO Hub has supported Member States to integrate Collaborative Surveillance into their national planning. The WHO Hub supported Pandemic Fund proposals to enhance Collaborative Surveillance for pandemic preparedness and response at regional and country level.

The Collaborative Surveillance vision has been adopted around the world by international partners and philanthropies, including the Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and global networks like the International Association of National Public Health Institutes.



Key achievements of 2024



Scaling up our key initiatives

In 2024, the WHO Hub significantly expanded its reach and impact through its key initiatives working with over 150 Member States and 210 partner organizations and networks.

The Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) initiative scaled up to 103 Member States and 28 organizations, improving real-time detection by continuously scanning open sources for health threats. The International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) has grown to 235 partners in 85 Member States and has established a US\$ 4 million catalytic grant fund to strengthen pathogen surveillance in low- and middle-income countries. The Decision Support Simulator for Epidemics and Pandemics is on track to deliver a working prototype by early 2025, modeling disease transmission and the impact of interventions to support

policy-making. The Collaboratory now connects more than 600 analysts from over 100 institutions in more than 50 countries and promotes global collaboration on outbreak analytics. Through its efforts to strengthen national health agencies, the Hub has supported 114 countries in establishing or improving their national agencies, enhancing emergency preparedness and response worldwide.

Fostering Collaborations

A core principle of the Hub's mission has been to create a physical space dedicated to collaboration and exchange. In just three years, we have established a fully operational, dynamic campus for global health activities in Berlin welcoming thousands of visitors each year.

As of July 2024, we have grown our workforce to more than 100 people, with a composition that reflects our collaborative ethos: over 40 WHO

staff are joined by secondments and exchange posts from partner organizations from different sectors and Member States – an innovative approach within the United Nations system that fosters cooperation and the exchange of expertise.

The Hub within Germany's global health ecosystem

Germany has been the driving force behind many innovative initiatives in global health and Berlin has been an ideal base for the Hub, with a vibrant landscape and existing strong global health actors in research and public health.

In 2024, the Hub deepened its collaboration with its two foundational partners, the Center for Global Health at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the Robert Koch Institute, as well as the World Health Summit, where international experts

in global health are brought together every year.

Germany's support for the Hub has created a multiplier effect, allowing us to mobilize additional financial resources and strengthen our reputation for thought leadership. The Hub's work, in turn, contributes to the policy priorities of the country, and supports Germany in its work to strengthen the policies and practices of global public health.

Looking ahead

In 2024, the WHO Hub has made significant strides in supporting countries, fostering collaboration and strengthening global surveillance systems. Moving forward, we remain committed to working with our partners to advance the implementation of Collaborative Surveillance and improve our preparedness for emerging health threats.

The WHO Hub in action: Contributing to the mpox response

In August 2024, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared the outbreak of mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a growing number of countries in Africa a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

The WHO Hub is actively involved in the response, providing critical support through its key initiatives in the areas of analytics and modelling, genomic and wastewater surveillance and event-based surveillance.

The Collaboratory brought together mpox modellers and analysts who, for the first time, used collaborative approaches to model the spread of mpox clade 1b. These models were presented to the International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee of independent experts, helping to inform their decision on whether the outbreak was to be considered a PHEIC.

The IPSN convened pathogen genomics experts in a Community of Practice (CoP) to support the mpox response, focusing on pathogen genomics surveillance and wastewater surveillance. Through knowledge exchange, a landscape analysis of mpox genomics options, and the development of tools for analytical quality control, the CoP strengthened and harmonized in-country analysis of mpox genome data.

The EIOS team enhances countries' ability to detect new mpox clusters by providing tools, support and training for monitoring publicly available information using the EIOS system and connecting stakeholders. In close collaboration with stakeholders, the team expands and refines categories and sources within the EIOS system to better capture and categorize relevant information based on the needs of Member States and regional teams.



A health worker at the Nyiragongo General Referral Hospital in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, where mpox patients are being treated