

Building the future of public health intelligence (PHI): **Launch of the PHI Competency Framework and Curriculum**

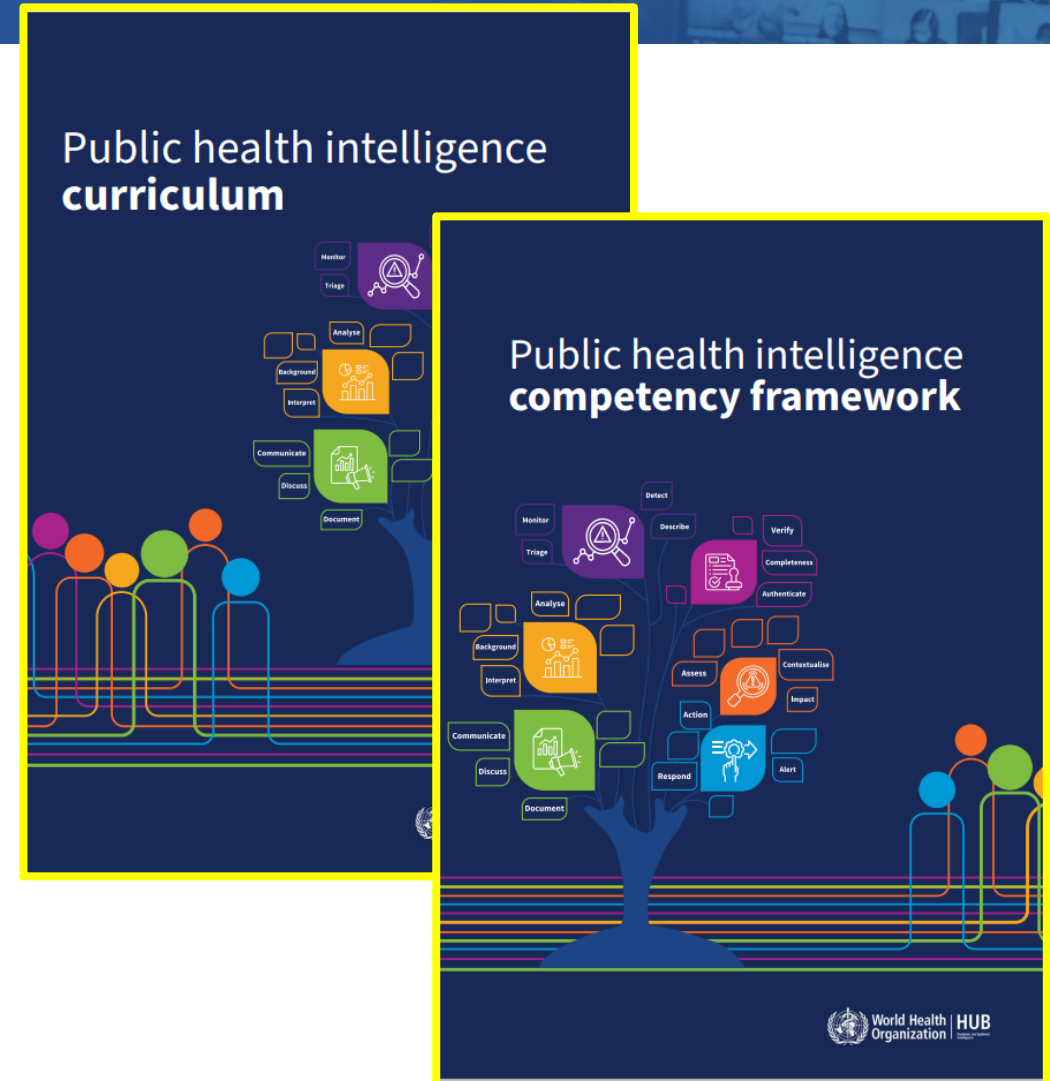
3 December 2025

Public Health Intelligence

- **Public Health Intelligence (PHI)** is defined as a **core public health function** responsible for:
 - Identifying, collecting, connecting, synthesizing, analyzing, assessing, interpreting, and generating diverse information.
 - Producing actionable insights.
 - Disseminating these insights to enable **informed and effective decision-making** aimed at protecting and improving population health.
- PHI differs from traditional epidemiology and surveillance in scope and function: surveillance is often a process of systematic data collection, while intelligence is the product—actionable insights derived from multiple data sources.
- PHI is critical for rapid, evidence-based responses to pandemics, environmental crises, conflicts, and other health emergencies, fostering transparency, trust, and accountability.

Developing PHI Skills

- **PHI Competency Framework:** Identifies essential competencies, functions, and tasks for PHI professionals, defining the critical skills and knowledge needed and serving as a training and reference guide aligned with real-world public health intelligence needs.
- **PHI Curriculum:** Builds on the Competency Framework by translating competencies into structured courses and learning objectives to develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for effective PHI practice.
- **PHI Foundational Training:** Introduces core PHI concepts and processes through standalone training that can be completed prior to using the Framework and Curriculum.



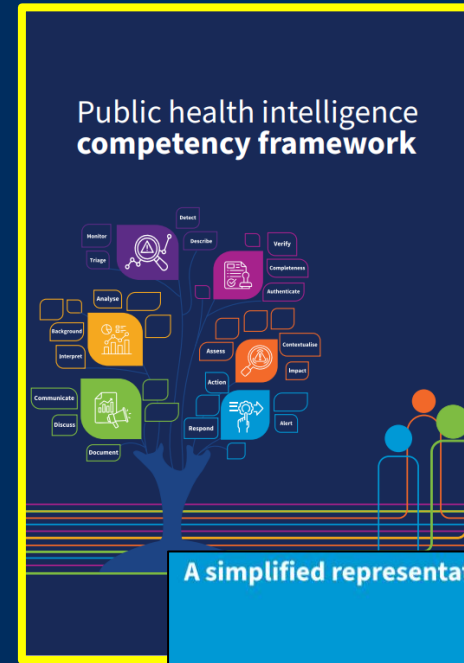
The PHI Competency Framework

It highlights the **essential PHI competencies for the workforce**. These competencies are illustrated through task in technical and functional domains. The tasks:

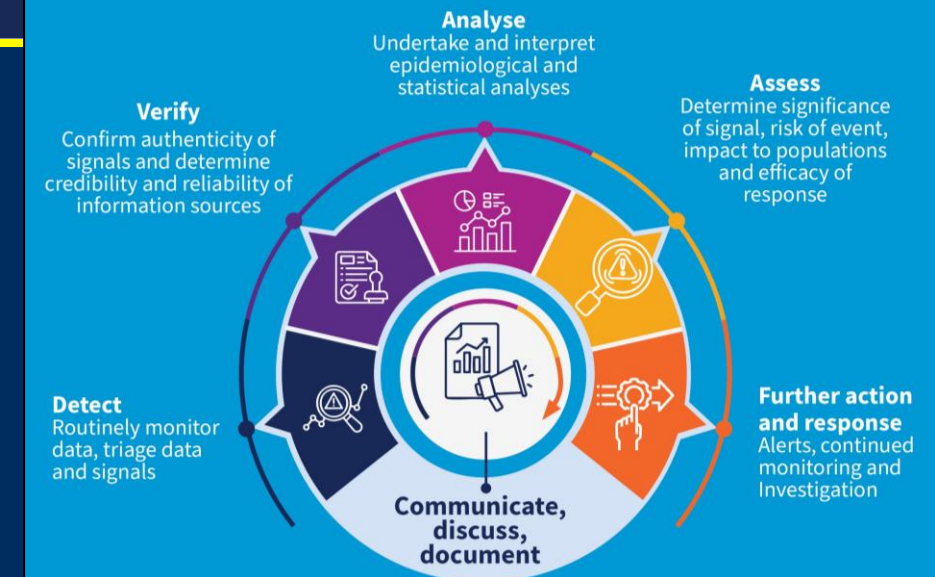
- Define essential **skills & knowledge** for PHI professionals
- Cover data collection, analysis, interpretation, communication, policy translation

The PHI Competency Framework serves as a Training tool, and reference for institutions to align PHI competencies with real-world needs.

These competencies are illustrated through tasks distributed in **Four Technical Domains** based on steps of PHI process: Detect, Verify, Analyse and Assess



A simplified representation of the Public Health Intelligence (PHI) process



The PHI Curriculum

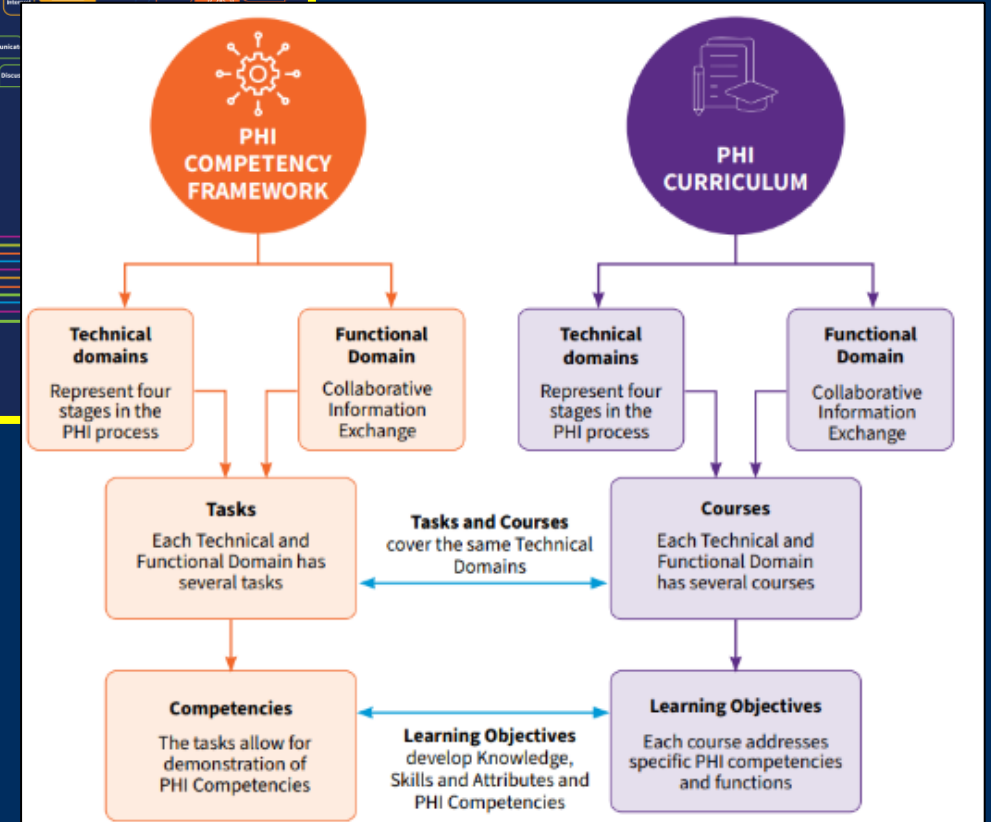
The PHI Curriculum complements the PHI Competency Framework.

The Curriculum suggests a structured training approach for PHI professionals to develop necessary competencies and knowledge, skills and abilities through courses and learning objectives.



Download it now here:
<https://www.who.int/initiatives/phicompetencies/curriculum>

Public health intelligence curriculum



PHI Framework

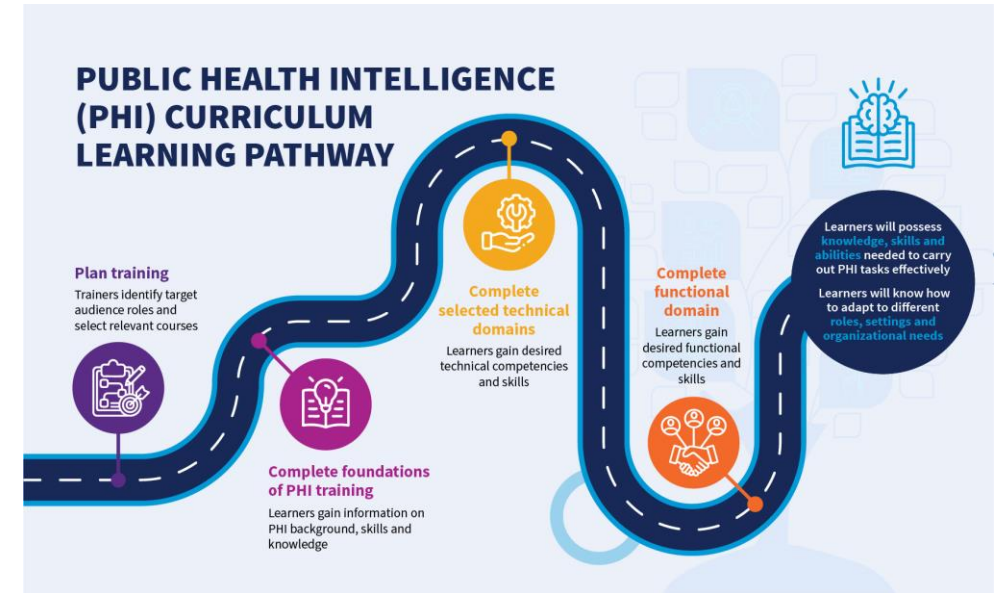
- These resources were developed through extensive consultations with member states, academic institutions, public health agencies, and expert groups (including RKI and CDC).
- They are designed as **living documents**, adaptable to evolving science, technology, and public health needs.
- The framework defines essential competencies and tasks across four technical domains (detection, verification, analysis, assessment) and one functional domain (collaborative information exchange).
- The curriculum translates these competencies into structured learning pathways with courses and learning objectives, suitable for diverse learners and adaptable to various contexts and delivery modes (in-person, virtual, hybrid, self-study).

Applying the PHI Framework and Curriculum

- The PHI framework supports workforce development by guiding the design of new curricula, improving existing training and education, and supporting ongoing professional growth.
- Organizations can use it to inform hiring and performance evaluation, identify training needs and workforce gaps, and support workforce planning and policy development.
- The framework serves multiple audiences: public health intelligence professionals (self-assessment, career growth), policymakers (strategic planning), employers (recruitment, workforce planning), and trainers (curriculum design).

Uses and applications of the framework

- The PHI curriculum supports training and education by guiding the design of new PHI programmes, higher education courses, and refresher or advanced modules for experienced professionals.
- It also strengthens organizational capacity by helping establish or adapt PHI training across government and diverse local, regional, or global contexts, including both resource-limited and well-established settings.
- The curriculum supports learners at all levels, from novices to experienced staff, and is applicable across government, academia, NGOs, and industry globally.
- It embraces an all-hazards and One Health approach, addressing infectious and non-infectious health threats.
- Users are encouraged to select relevant technical domains and courses based on local needs and contexts, enabling flexible and modular learning pathways.



RKI – WHO Hub in Berlin collaboration on Public Health Intelligence Capacity Building and Innovation

- WHO and the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) collaboration on Public Health Intelligence (PHI) capacity building and innovation aims to strengthen global health security by enhancing PHI capabilities, which are critical for early detection, risk assessment, and rapid response to public health threats.
- The collaboration involves multiple stakeholders, including WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), World Health Organization Country Offices (WCO), Ministries of Health (MoH), and multidisciplinary teams across pilot countries.

Stronger Together: WHO Hub, RKI & EMRO

- Collaborative project
 - Collaboration across different organizations
 - Four pilot countries
 - WCO and MoH
- Multidisciplinary team
- ONE TEAM



RKI – WHO Hub in Berlin collaboration on Public Health Intelligence Capacity Building and Innovation

- The PHI foundational training, based on the framework and curriculum, was piloted in four Eastern Mediterranean countries: Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon.
- Training included topics such as legal and ethical frameworks, epidemiology for PHI, stakeholder engagement, and communication, delivered through interactive methods (presentations, discussions, group activities).
- Positive impacts reported include strengthened regional networks, improved workforce skills, enhanced communication, and identification of implementation gaps for targeted support.



Country experience: Lebanon

- Lebanon decentralized PHI operations from central to peripheral levels to improve timeliness and sustainability of detection, verification, analysis, and assessment.
- Training expanded to multiple sectors beyond health, including agriculture, environment, and education, promoting a One Health approach.
 - Training participants included representatives from the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Education and Higher Education, from both central and peripheral levels of the health system.
- The harmonized curriculum aims to establish a shared language and understanding across sectors and countries, promote effective communication, and ensure consistent, systematic approaches to managing epidemic and public health intelligence data.



Country experience: Lebanon

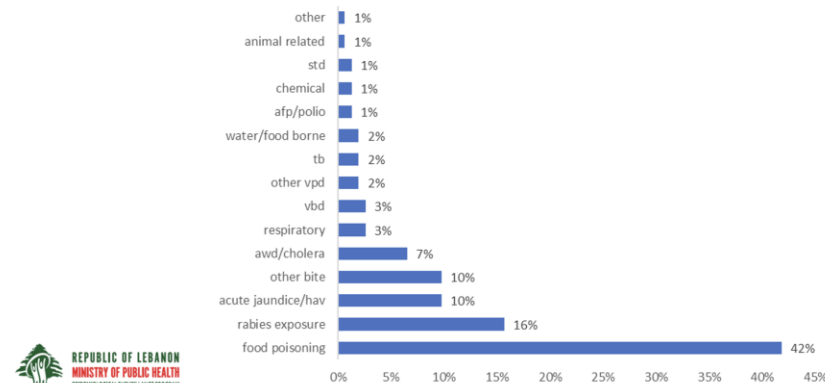
- Data from January to November 2025 showed high timeliness in signal verification (96%) and investigation (93%), with common signals related to food poisoning and rabies exposure.
- Future plans include expanding workforce training, enhancing risk assessment capacity, automating social media screening, and broadening surveillance sources.

• Jan-11 Nov 2025

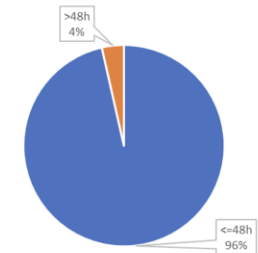
Total*	Selected	Verification	True	Investigated
153	141	137	130	130

*Total: discussed at daily meeting

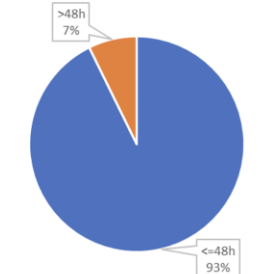
Signal by condition (Jan-Nov 2025)



Timeliness of verification



Timeliness of investigation



Visit our Website to learn more:

Strengthening PHI Competencies Website:

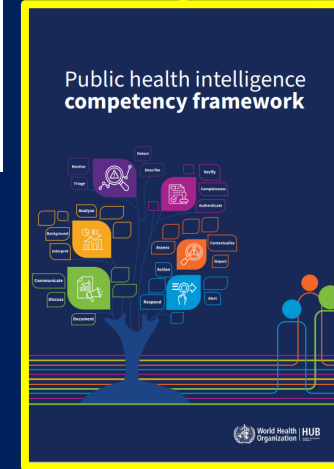
Learn more and download the PHI Competency Framework and PHI Curriculum:

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/phicompetencies>

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Public health intelligence curriculum



Follow the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence



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<https://pandemichub.who.int/>



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EPI-WIN webinar

- View webinar “[Building the future of public health intelligence \(PHI\): Launch of the PHI Competency Framework and Curriculum](#)”
- Speakers
 - Professor Johanna Hanefeld ,Acting Vice President, Robert Koch Institute, Germany
 - Dr Nada Ghosn , Head, Epidemiological Surveillance Program, Ministry of Public Health, Lebanon
 - Dr Philip AbdelMalik, Unit Head, Intelligence Innovation and Integration, WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence
 - Dr Raquel Medialdea Carrera, Epidemiologist, WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence