



**TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF
Global One Health Arbovirus Network (GO-ArboNet)**

I. Vision, Mission and Goal

Vision

A world in which laboratory, surveillance, vector control, veterinary, environmental, and research networks work together seamlessly to support countries in the early detection, monitoring, preparedness, and response to arboviruses and other emerging zoonotic viral threats.

Mission

To strengthen global and regional collaboration by connecting existing networks, institutions, and technical expertise under WHO coordination, enabling more timely sharing of information, improved situational awareness, enhanced diagnostic preparedness, and stronger country-level public health impact, with an initial focus on arboviruses and the flexibility to support preparedness for other emerging zoonotic viral threats where collaboration across existing networks adds value.

Goal

To improve early detection, monitoring, preparedness, and response to arboviruses while increasing efficiency and reducing duplication across laboratory, surveillance, and One Health networks.

II. Status

GO-ArboNet is a WHO-managed collaborative arrangement operating under WHO stewardship.

GO-ArboNet functions as a voluntary network and coordination platform connecting existing networks and partners. Participating networks retain full ownership of their governance structures, workplans, data, partnerships, and decision-making processes. Participation in GO-ArboNet does not create reporting obligations beyond those voluntarily agreed within the network and does not replace existing regional, national, or thematic coordination mechanisms.

GO-ArboNet is not a separate legal entity and derives its legal status from WHO. Activities undertaken within GO-ArboNet shall be administered in accordance with the WHO Constitution, General Programme of Work, applicable WHO policies, procedures and regulations, and the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA).

GO-ArboNet is designed to connect and strengthen existing networks, not to replace them.

For the purposes of these Terms of Reference, a Member is an organization formally admitted to GO-ArboNet, and a Participant is an individual nominated by a Member.

III. Objectives

3.1 Objective 1: Strengthen Coordination Across Networks and Sectors

Enhance global and regional situational awareness through improved coordination among laboratory, surveillance, entomological, veterinary, environmental, and research networks.

Activities include:

- Facilitating routine information exchange between participating networks.
- Supporting joint interpretation of epidemiological, laboratory, entomological, and animal health signals.
- Promoting One Health approaches to arbovirus preparedness and response.
- Supporting coordination across participating networks.

3.2 Objective 2: Facilitate Data and Specimen Sharing

Enable timely, trusted, equitable, and operationally useful sharing of laboratory data, epidemiological information, and biological specimens.

Activities include:

- Identifying common technical standards and data-sharing approaches.
- Facilitating collaboration with existing WHO mechanisms and platforms.
- Supporting access to reference materials and diagnostic validation resources.
- Promoting transparent and equitable sharing practices.

3.3 Objective 3: Strengthen Diagnostic Preparedness and Response

Improve global readiness for emerging and re-emerging arboviruses and, where appropriate, other emerging zoonotic viral threats through coordinated diagnostic preparedness activities.

Activities include:

- Identifying priority diagnostic gaps.
- Supporting evaluation and validation of diagnostic assays.
- Facilitating access to technical expertise and reference materials.
- Promoting technology transfer and laboratory capacity strengthening.

3.4 Objective 4: Promote Operational Efficiency and Collective Impact

Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing arbovirus-related networks through coordination, collaboration, and shared learning.

- Identifying opportunities to reduce duplication across networks.
- Promoting sharing of tools, protocols, training materials, and technical resources.
- Facilitating collaboration during outbreaks and public health emergencies.
- Supporting alignment of activities where collaboration adds value.
- Documenting and disseminating lessons learned and best practices.

IV. Core Principles

GO-ArboNet operates according to the following principles:

- Respect for existing regional, sub-regional, and global networks and their governance structures.
- Collaboration through coordination, convening, and knowledge exchange rather than centralization.
- Promotion of complementarity and avoidance of duplication across participating networks and initiatives.
- One Health collaboration across human, animal, environmental, and vector sectors.
- Transparency, inclusiveness, and equitable participation.
- Scientific excellence and evidence-based decision-making.
- Mutual learning, capacity strengthening, and sharing of expertise.
- Flexibility and adaptability to address emerging and re-emerging arboviral threats.
- Commitment to strengthening collective impact and supporting public health action at country, regional, and global levels.

V. Governance and structure

The GO-ArboNet comprises of a Secretariat, a Technical Advisory Group, a Network Representatives Group and Working Groups. The GO-ArboNet is not a decision-making body, nor does it have any bearing on the work and activities of its members that occur outside the GO-ArboNet.

5.1 The Secretariat

WHO shall serve as Secretariat of GO-ArboNet.

The Secretariat shall:

- Facilitate coordination and communication among participating networks and partners.
- Convene meetings (virtual and/or physical), consultations, and collaborative activities.
- Support the development of annual workplans in consultation with participating networks and partners.
- Maintain communication platforms and information-sharing mechanisms.
- Coordinate monitoring and reporting on network activities.

- Facilitate engagement with WHO technical programmes, regional offices, and external partners.

The Secretariat shall chair meetings of the Network Representatives Group.

Subject to the availability of sufficient human and financial resources for this purpose, Secretariat support and coordination for the GO-ArboNet will be provided by WHO. Secretariat support will be provided in accordance with WHO's rules, regulations, policies and procedures.

The Secretariat reserves the right not to implement any GO-ArboNet recommendation or activity which it determines gives rise to undue financial, legal or reputational liability or is contrary to WHO policies, regulations and procedures.

5.2 Technical Advisory Group on Arboviruses (TAG-Arboviruses)

The WHO Technical Advisory Group on Arboviruses shall provide strategic guidance to GO-ArboNet.

The TAG-Arboviruses shall:

- Provide strategic direction.
- Review progress and emerging priorities.
- Advise WHO and participating networks on technical and strategic priorities.
- Endorse annual workplans where appropriate.
- Promote alignment with the Global Arbovirus Strategy and other WHO priorities.

The TAG-Arboviruses serves in an advisory capacity and does not manage day-to-day network operations.

5.3 Network Representatives Group

The Network Representatives Group shall consist of representatives nominated by participating networks and invited strategic partners. The group serves as the principal forum for collaboration, information exchange, and coordination among participating networks.

The Group shall:

- Provide technical and operational advice to the Secretariat and contribute to the strategic development of GO-ArboNet.
- Identify emerging priorities and opportunities for collaboration.
- Support development of annual workplans.
- Share experiences and lessons learned.
- Promote coordination among participating networks.

The Group serves in an advisory capacity and does not exercise decision-making authority over participating organizations.

The Group shall meet at least annually and may be convened more frequently as needed.

5.4 Working Groups

The Secretariat, in consultation with the Network Representatives Group, may establish thematic Working Groups to advance specific areas of work.

Initial Working Groups may include:

Working Group 1: Surveillance Integration, One Health Intelligence and Emerging Threats

Focus:

- Human surveillance
- Animal surveillance
- Entomological surveillance
- Environmental surveillance
- Risk assessment

Working Group 2: Data and Specimen Sharing

Focus:

- Data sharing
- Specimen sharing
- Metadata standards
- WHO BioHub and related mechanisms
- Governance and operational considerations

Working Group 3: Diagnostics and Laboratory Preparedness

Focus:

- Diagnostic readiness
- Assay evaluation
- Reference materials
- External quality assessment
- Laboratory preparedness

Working Group 4: Capacity Strengthening and Workforce Development

Focus:

- Training
- Technology transfer
- Workforce development
- South-South and triangular collaboration

Additional Working Groups may be established as needed.

Participating networks retain full ownership of their governance structures, workplans, data, partnerships, and decision-making processes. Participation in GO-ArboNet does not create reporting obligations beyond those voluntarily agreed within the network and does not replace existing regional, national, or thematic coordination mechanisms.

VI. Membership

6.1 Membership Categories

Eligible national, regional and international entities include:

- WHO Collaborating Centres working on arboviruses and other emerging zoonotic viral threats.
- Regional and sub-regional surveillance networks on arboviruses and other emerging zoonotic viral threats
- One Health networks.
- Vector surveillance and vector control networks.
- Laboratory networks.
- Research and technical networks.

Other collaborative platforms with demonstrated relevance to arbovirus and emerging zoonotic viral threat preparedness, surveillance, risk assessment, and response:

- United Nations organizations.
- Intergovernmental organizations.

Other strategic partners (outside of the formal membership process):

- Philanthropic organizations.
- Other organizations invited by WHO.

6.2 Eligibility Criteria

Participation is voluntary. All entities seeking to apply for the GO-ArboNet membership must meet the following criteria:

- The aims and purposes of the entity should be consistent with the WHO Constitution and conform with WHO's policies and align with the objectives of Go-ArboNet;
- The entity should contribute significantly to the advancement of public health and to the objectives, vision and goal of the GO-ArboNet and demonstrate documented support for WHO's work on arbovirus and emerging zoonotic viral threat preparedness, surveillance and response;
- The entity should respect the intergovernmental nature of WHO and the decision-making authority of Member States as set out in the WHO Constitution;
- The entity should be actively working at national, regional or global level in the field of arbovirus and emerging zoonotic viral threat preparedness, surveillance and response with proven experience and expertise in the subject matter for at least 3 years;
- The entity should have an established structure, constitutive act, and accountability mechanism;
- The entity, if a membership organization, should have the authority to speak for its participants and have a representative structure.

Participating networks should demonstrate:

- Technical expertise relevant to arboviruses, vector-borne diseases, other zoonotic viral

- threats, diagnostics, surveillance, preparedness, response, or One Health approaches.
- Active engagement at national, regional, or global levels.
- Demonstrated contribution to public health preparedness, surveillance, response, capacity strengthening, or technical collaboration
- Commitment to collaboration, information sharing, and mutual learning.
- Alignment with WHO public health objectives and principles.

6.3 Responsibilities of Members and Participants

Members and Participants are expected to:

- Support the objectives and principles of GO-ArboNet.
- Participate in meetings and network activities, as appropriate.
- Share relevant expertise, experiences, tools, and lessons learned.
- Contribute to collaborative activities where feasible.
- Promote coordination, complementarity, and mutual learning across participating networks.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration and reduce duplication across initiatives.

Participation does not create legal obligations or financial commitments and does not affect the autonomy of participating organizations or networks.

6.4 Membership applications

A standardized form and online application process will be developed by the Secretariat. Membership approval will be based on an assessment, due diligence process, and review of submitted documents, in accordance with the eligibility criteria and WHO's rules and policies. All membership applications will be reviewed by the Secretariat, and eligible entities will be approved by the Secretariat. Following this, eligible entities will be notified of their membership approval (or otherwise) by the Secretariat.

If a non-State actor is applying to participate, the entity is required to provide the following information and documents: name, objectives and mission of the entity, copy of the legal status (such as bylaws, constitution), governance structure, names and affiliations of the participants of main decision-making bodies (such as Board, Executive Board), assets, annual income and funding sources (list of donors and sponsors), main relevant affiliations and website address.

The entity will also sign the letter of participation and the tobacco-arms disclosure statement without alteration.

6.5 Membership Termination and Withdrawal

Each member has the right to withdraw from participation in the GO-ArboNet at any time, subject to providing one-month written notice to the Secretariat and to the orderly conclusion of any ongoing activities.

If a member does not attend two successive annual GO-ArboNet meetings, without appropriate written explanation to the Network Representatives Group, or does not attend at least 60% of the GO-ArboNet working group meetings, the member will be deemed to have withdrawn from the GO-ArboNet.

The Secretariat also has the right to terminate the membership of any entity at any time, upon providing written notice thereof to such participant. Without limiting the foregoing, the participation of any entity in the GO-ArboNet shall terminate if and when such a member: (a) no longer subscribes or adheres to the goals, objectives and/or guiding principles of the GO-ArboNet, as described in these Terms of Reference; (b) engages in activities that are not compatible with WHO Policies, and/or (c) ceases to meet the membership criteria for the GO-ArboNet, as set forth in these Terms of Reference. In such instances, the decision to terminate involvement of a member will be made by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Network Representatives Group.

WHO reserves the right to withdraw from administration of the GO-ArboNet at any time, subject to providing the GO-ArboNet members with at least six (6) months' prior written notice and to the orderly conclusion of any ongoing activities. WHO also has the right, exercisable in its sole discretion, to close the GO-ArboNet, to terminate any membership, its Network Representatives Group and/or to terminate any working group, in each case, at any time upon providing written notice thereof to the member(s) concerned.

6.6 Zero tolerance for all forms of sexual misconduct and other types of abusive conduct, fraud or corruption

All GO-ArboNet members are expected to ensure that the conduct of their employees and any other persons engaged by them is consistent with the WHO standards of conduct. WHO has zero tolerance towards any form of sexual misconduct (an all-inclusive term encompassing all forms of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and sexual violence), other types of abusive conduct, fraud or corruption. In this regard, and without limiting any other provisions contained herein, each GO-ArboNet member warrants that it shall:

- i) take all reasonable and appropriate measures to prevent any form of prohibited behaviour by any of its employees and by any other persons engaged by it to perform any activities or to provide any services for WHO on the entity's behalf. This refers to:
 - (a) sexual misconduct, as defined and addressed in the WHO Policy on Preventing and Addressing Sexual Misconduct;

- (b) other types of abusive conduct, as defined and addressed in the WHO Policy on Preventing and Addressing Abusive Conduct; and,
- (c) all forms of fraud or corruption, as defined and addressed in the WHO Policy on Prevention, Detection and Response to Fraud and Corruption.
- ii) promptly report any actual or suspected violations of these WHO policies of which the entity becomes aware to the WHO Office of Internal Oversight Services (“IOS”) at investigation@who.int;
- iii) promptly communicate to IOS any measures that may be necessary or appropriate to protect the confidentiality and wellbeing of the survivor or victim; and,
- iv) promptly respond to any actual or suspected violations of the above referenced WHO policies of which the entity becomes aware, and to cooperate with and to keep IOS informed of the status and outcome of any measures of protection, corrections to operations, investigation, and disciplinary action taken against any perpetrator by the entity.

VII. Meetings

WHO shall convene an annual GO-ArboNet meeting bringing together participating networks, strategic partners, technical experts, and invited stakeholders.

The annual meeting shall serve as the principal forum for collaboration, information exchange, and strategic dialogue within the network.

The annual meeting shall:

- Review progress against network objectives and workplans.
- Share experiences, innovations, lessons learned, and best practices from participating networks.
- Identify emerging technical, operational, and strategic priorities.
- Discuss opportunities for collaboration and coordination across participating networks.
- Review and update network workplans and activities, as appropriate.
- Promote cross-regional and cross-sectoral exchange in support of One Health approaches to arbovirus preparedness and response.

Additional virtual or in-person meetings, consultations, workshops, or technical exchanges may be convened by the Secretariat, in consultation with participating networks and partners, as required.

VIII. Workplans and Reporting

GO-ArboNet shall develop an annual workplan aligned with WHO priorities and informed by the needs, priorities, and contributions of participating networks and partners.

The workplan shall be developed through consultation among the Secretariat, the Network Representatives Group, participating networks, strategic partners, and the TAG-Arboviruses, as appropriate.

The Secretariat shall prepare an annual summary report describing:

- Progress against network objectives.
- Key activities, outputs, and achievements.
- Examples of collaboration and coordination across participating networks.
- Challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities for improvement.
- Emerging priorities and proposed activities for the following year.

The annual summary report shall support transparency, shared learning, and continuous improvement across the network.

IX. Communications

9.1 Visual Identity

To ensure that the GO-ArboNet is deliberately communicating with one voice to external parties on topics of substance (principles, priorities, target product profiles, standards, plans and actions, funding, and all confidential information, etc.) any communication in the name of the GO-ArboNet will take place through the Secretariat.

The GO-ArboNet is eligible to develop a visual identifier such as a logo which will help identify the network to its audience. The visual identifier must be approved and registered by relevant departments before it is used. The visual identifier will be accompanied by the statement “WHO Managed Network” as an integral part. The right to use the visual identifier including on publications, may be granted to participants on a case-by-case basis with prior written approval of the Secretariat. Participants shall not use WHO’s name, acronym and emblem. This includes, inter alia, the display of the WHO logo and name on any premises, equipment, as well as on any communication and/or training materials, training certificates, social media tools or publications.

9.2 Publications

The GO-ArboNet shall not produce publications, unless exceptional approval is given by the Secretariat. Any publication by a member, other than WHO, referring to GO-ArboNet activities shall contain appropriate disclaimers and logos and as decided by WHO, including that the content does not reflect the views or stated policy of the Network members or of WHO.

The participants must ensure that the work of the GO-ArboNet is not misrepresented, and appropriate disclaimers are included where necessary. The GO-ArboNet activities shall not include the development of technical materials, normative documents or policy papers.

9.3 The GO-ArboNet website

The GO-ArboNet may have a webpage housed within WHO's domain. The webpage may include a list of member entities, subject to their consent.

9.4 Intellectual property and Confidentiality

All Intellectual Property that is generated by the network shall vest in WHO. Depending on the agenda item being discussed, each participant in the GO-ArboNet may be required to abide by confidentiality obligation and sign a standard confidentiality undertaking using the form provided by WHO for this purpose.

X. Finance

Members will be responsible for their own expenses in relation to all GO-ArboNet activities (including participation at meetings), unless agreed otherwise by the Secretariat. If members receive third party funding to support participation in GO-ArboNet meetings and activities, this must be disclosed to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat support and related day-to-day operations of the GO-ArboNet may be financed by voluntary contributions from the members. The Secretariat may also raise funds from other sources to support the work of the GO-ArboNet, in accordance WHO rules and procedures, as appropriate. All Secretariat funds shall be received, administered and acknowledged in accordance with WHO's policies including its financial regulations, rules, and practices. The Secretariat reserves the right to require that the GO-ArboNet name not be used in such grant applications. Contributions by members including donations (in cash or in kind), will be acknowledged by the Secretariat in accordance with WHO's applicable rules, policies and practices.

XI. Monitoring and Evaluation

GO-ArboNet shall annually review its structure, performance, relevance, and added value to ensure that the network continues to support effective collaboration, coordination, and preparedness for arboviruses.

Evaluation shall consider:

- Participation and engagement of networks and partners.
- Effectiveness of collaboration and information exchange across participating networks.
- Added value generated through the network.
- Efficiency gains and reduction of duplication across participating networks and initiatives.
- Progress toward network objectives and workplans.

- Contribution to preparedness, surveillance, response, capacity strengthening, and other public health outcomes.
- Continued relevance of the network structure, priorities, and activities.

Findings from annual reviews shall be used to inform future workplans, priorities, and improvements to the network and be the basis of assessing whether WHO should continue to manage the GO-ArboNet. The annual progress report should be provided to WHO (PAF) for tracking and information sharing.

XII. Duration

The GO-ArboNet will be launched upon WHO's final approval of these Terms of Reference. The initial duration of the GO-ArboNet is 5 years, which may be extended following a review by WHO and subject to the availability of sufficient dedicated human and financial resources.

XIII. Amendments and Review

These Terms of Reference may be amended by WHO following consultation with the Network Representatives Group, participating networks, strategic partners, and relevant advisory bodies, as appropriate.

The Terms of Reference shall be reviewed periodically to ensure their continued relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with the objectives and principles of GO-ArboNet.

Any amendments shall seek to preserve the collaborative, network-of-networks nature of GO-ArboNet while ensuring alignment with WHO policies, priorities, and governance requirements.