



TRAINING REPORT

**GOARN Outbreak Response Scenario Training
31 October to 5 November 2022
New Delhi**

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Background

The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) is a global technical partnership, established by WHO as a key mechanism to engage the resources of technical agencies for rapid identification, confirmation, and response to public health emergencies of international importance. GOARN comprises technical institutions and networks across the globe. The role of network and collaboration across disciplines and boundaries has been shown critical in the response during all major epidemics and outbreaks including COVID-19 pandemic.

GOARN is committed to developing and strengthening national and international public health emergency workforce for alert and response through capacity-building for specific disease threats, coordinated multidisciplinary, multiagency response, outbreak leadership and rapid response team training, and technical and operational standards for public health emergency workforce that can be deployed nationally and internationally.

As part of the multi-tiered and multi-faceted competency-based GOARN Capacity Building and Training Programme, The GOARN Outbreak Response Scenario Training was first launched in 2005 and over the years has evolved into an intensive 5-day outbreak scenario-driven course which aims to simulate the technical and operational challenges of outbreak response. While this training course was hosted in SEARO several times in the early years of its development, it has over 10 years since it's last implementation in the Region. With significant interest from partners in other regions to engage, the GOARN Tier 2.0 training course was hosted by WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Delhi jointly with GOARN Secretariate in WHO, Geneva and WHO Western Pacific Region. Key partners contributed to the training programme, including Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET), Australian National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC), and regional partners.

Objectives

The GOARN Outbreak Response Scenario Training is an adaptation training designed to orient GOARN deployees to the processes, realities and challenges of working as part of an international outbreak response team. This training provides a safe space for public health experts of various specialties to build and test their skills, behaviours and attitudes as they work in an international multidisciplinary team in which they must apply their existing

technical skills in a new, challenging and dynamic environment in order to effectively solve an evolving outbreak of unknown origin.

Specific objectives

Specific objectives of the GOARN Tier 2.0 training included;

- a) Orient future outbreak responders to the processes, challenges and realities of working as part of an international multidisciplinary team in outbreak response;
- b) Facilitate the adaptation of the existing technical skills of future responders to a field response context;
- c) Build and assess the vital soft skills of responders, as per the GOARN Competency Model for team members;
- d) Facilitate networking of GOARN partners;
- e) Advocate the role and added value of GOARN and
- f) Enhance engagement and commitment of GOARN partners;



Expected outputs

At the end of the training, the following outputs were achieved:

- a) 24 participants from GOARN partner institutions were trained on the process, steps and soft skills required for effective outbreak response;
- b) 24 participants from GOARN partners were observed and assessed working in international and multidisciplinary teams, in a simulated outbreak response scenario; and
- c) 24 participants from GOARN partner institutions are considered ready for future deployment with GOARN on an international outbreak response.

Participants and facilitators

Participants: A call for application to partake in the training was circulated among GOARN partners. Twenty-four middle to senior level GOARN partner institution staff with technical expertise in a relevant field and previous outbreak response experience (at a national or international level) who are committed to deploying on a GOARN field mission were to be included. Interested applicants were required to submit a candidate registration form, CV, personal letter of motivation and an institutional support letter endorsing the potential future deployment of the individual for a minimum of 6 weeks. Selection of participants was made by the Core Training Team based on pre-determined criteria. The final selection of participants was made to ensure both geographic and technical specialty diversity. Grouping of the participants into three teams were made in which they worked for the duration of the training.



Faculty: Eighteen facilitators were involved in the training. This includes the Course Coordinator, 10 core faculty, 3 dedicated team champions (who facilitate team building and assess participant development and performance), administrative support staff and role players for the simulation exercise.



Core faculty include expertise in Epidemiology, Communications (risk communications and community engagement), Infection Prevention Control and Case Management, Logistics, Laboratory and Animal Health. Faculty come from GOARN Partner Institutions, including and WHO (HQ, SEARO and WPRO), CDC, TEPHINET, NCCTRC, Australian Masters of Applied Epidemiology and other key GOARN Training Partners.

Training processes

Selected participants had to successfully complete the mandatory pre-course work prior to arrival at the training venue. Pre-course work consists of a series of online self-directed courses, taking approximately 5-8 hours in total as follows:

Part 1 (mandatory) consisted of a series of short eCourses hosted on the GOARN virtual training platform.

1. The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network
2. Working with GOARN in the Field
3. The Public Health Emergency and Humanitarian Architecture and Landscape
4. Working in an International Multidisciplinary Outbreak Response team



Part 2a (mandatory) consists of two short video lectures introducing the WHO Incident Management.

7. Working in WHO's Incident Management System

8. Incident Management System Functional Areas

Part 2b (mandatory) consists of a video lecture detailing WHO's stance on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PRSEAH).

9. Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

Part 3 (highly recommended) a series of additional eCourses exploring human rights and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. These courses are part of the WHO PSEAH deployment checklist, are highly recommended to complete as pre-course work for this training and are mandatory for any deployment with GOARN and WHO.

10. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Team dynamics

11. United to Respect: Preventing Sexual Harassment and Other Prohibited Conduct

12. UN Human Rights and Responsibilities

Training schedule

2 day: 29 - 30 October 2022: pre-training faculty preparation workshop

5.5 days: 31 October to 5 November 2022: GOARN Outbreak Response Scenario Training



Faculty preparation workshop: All facilitators met at the Field-Site (Hotel in Dwarka, Delhi) for two days to orient new faculty to the GOARN Outbreak Response Scenario training approaches, familiarize themselves with the course materials and role play scripts, identify locations for all role plays in the simulation, review of presentations and detailed planning for roles and responsibilities,

GOARN Outbreak Response Scenario Training: As this training was a scenario-based simulation



exercise, no agenda was shared with participants, instead they received instructions for activities and deliverables in the form of injects. Below is a high-level summary of the themes and activities that were explored as the outbreak scenario evolves over the 5 days of the training.

The five and a half (5.5) days face-to-face training used a combination of a variety of learning activities. The training was conducted in English, following a simulated evolving outbreak response scenario through various means as follows:

- a) Presentations – training workshop overview, introductions, short technical presentations related to steps of outbreak response.
- b) Role plays – throughout the entire training there were frequent role plays and debriefs for simulated outbreak response investigation activities. These included teleconferences, interviews, site visits etc.
- c) Breakout and group exercises/discussion and presentations – related to the outbreak response investigation activities in the scenario.
- d) Team work – participants worked in 3 teams for the duration of the training. They needed to allocate roles and responsibilities for each task, ensuring all deadlines were met, and will also participate in daily team debrief sessions with their dedicated team mentor.
- e) Submission of daily SitReps (related to the scenario), and final mission reports and presentation of their simulated outbreak response deployment.

The Training was formally inaugurated on 31 October with reading out of opening remarks from Director Health Emergencies, Regional Office of WHO South-East Asia. The Training started in

the City Venue (Metropolitan Hotel, New Delhi) and moved to the Field Venue on the second day.

Ice breaker session were conducted on the initial days. A learning style assessment test was run using Honey and Mumford Learning style Charts. Each evening participants worked on their deliverables as discussed during the day sessions.



On Day 3 of the training role plays scenario involved a hospital setting. Participants along with faculty were taken to Max Hospital, Gurugram a neighboring city of Delhi for this scenario-based role play session.



At the end of each day the Team Champions had a debriefing session with the teams to ensure active participation of each member of the team and to promote active learning. Each day also ended with a debriefing session for all facilitators to assess the progress of each day and to discuss any course corrective action that was required.

Following the successful completion of the training, teams of two facilitators conducted one-on-one in-depth discussion with every participant to discuss the key learning from the training and also to understand if they would be willing to be deployed in future outbreaks through the Network.

The training concluded on 5 November 2022 with team and individual evolution feedback and formal closing by Dr Sugandhika Pereira Programme Area Manager, WHE/EMO unit.



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