

WHO Collaborating Centres in the Western Pacific Region

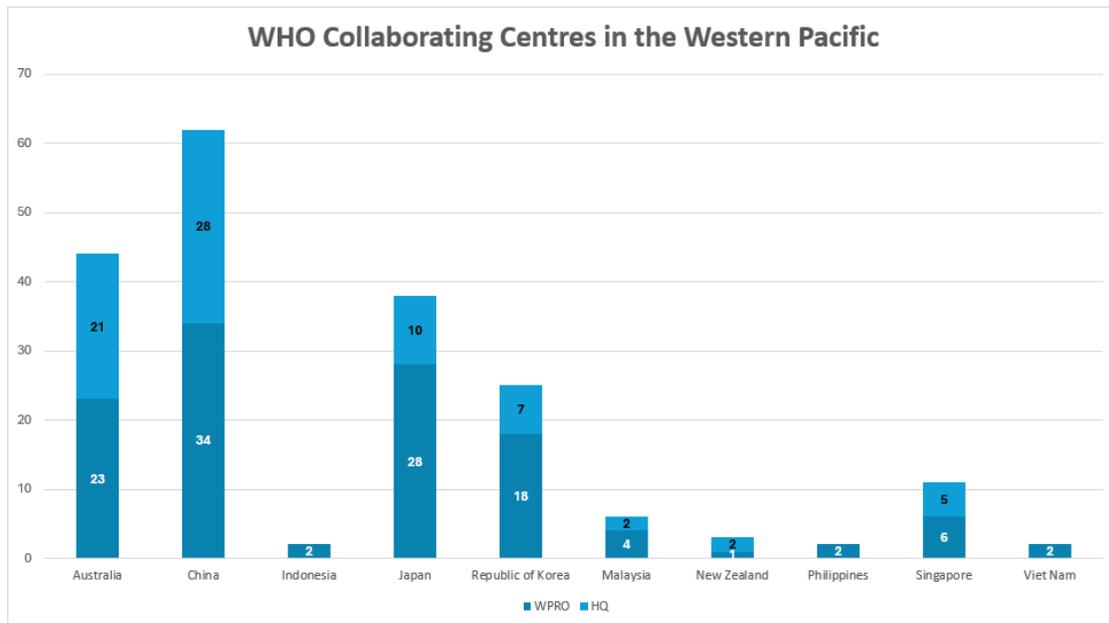
WHO Collaborating Centres (WHO CCs) are esteemed national institutions that play a vital role in advancing the Organization's global priorities and programmatic mandates. They work with WHO at global, regional, and country levels through specific, predetermined activities focusing on collaborative efforts to advance global health initiatives. They are officially designated by the WHO Director-General for a four-year term, with possibilities of renewal.

The relationship between WHO and its Collaborating Centres is a synergistic and mutually beneficial partnership. This strategic alliance, leveraging the global pool of expertise and institutional capacity provided by the CCs, ensures the scientific rigor of WHO's work. These partnerships allow WHO to access cutting-edge research, specialized knowledge, and highly skilled personnel worldwide, bolstering the scientific validity and credibility of its guidelines, recommendations, and public health interventions.

Conversely, WHO Collaborating Centres gain enhanced visibility and recognition. The WHO designation elevates an institution's profile within the international scientific community, among national authorities, and with the public. This heightened recognition draws much-needed attention to the critical health issues the centre addresses, leading to increased public awareness, support, and advocacy for their work. Beyond recognition, the WHO CC designation improves opportunities for information exchange and technical cooperation. Centres gain privileged access to a global network of peers, fostering collaborative research, sharing best practices, and developing joint projects with other leading international institutions. This expanded network facilitates knowledge transfer and accelerates progress in addressing complex health challenges.

WHO CCs in the Western Pacific

The Western Pacific Region is home to 195 WHO Collaborating Centres, whose support is indispensable to the successful implementation of the Regional Vision, *"Weaving Health for Families, Communities and Societies in the Western Pacific Region."* This vision aligns with both the global *WHO Fourteenth General Programme of Work (GPW14)* and *Country Cooperation Strategies (CCS)*. These centres are located in Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam. Of these, 120 were initiated by the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, and 75 by the WHO headquarters.



The support of WHO CCs enhances WHO's effectiveness in delivering the actions espoused in the CCS, Regional Vision and GPW14. Likewise, the designation of institutions in the Western Pacific as WHO Collaborating Centres amplifies the institutions' reach, influence, and ability to contribute meaningfully to Member States' efforts.

The centres offer diverse areas of support, tackling health challenges through their specialized expertise across a broad spectrum of health domains. These include transformative primary health care, universal health coverage, health systems resilience, health security, healthy lifestyles, healthy settings, and technology and innovation.

The WHO Collaborating Centres are improving public health across the Region. Their multifaceted contributions bolster scientific evidence and technical knowledge as they serve as crucial hubs for research and development. They also facilitate the transfer of technology and expertise, ensuring that cutting-edge advancements and best practices reach the communities and health systems that need them most. Furthermore, WHO CCs strengthen national and regional health capacities, building robust healthcare infrastructures, and empowering local health professionals through training and resource provision.