

WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health (2008-2017): Baseline for Implementation

Global Country Survey 2008/2009

METHODOLOGY AND STATISTICAL ANNEXES

Geneva, April 2013

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METHODOLOGY AND STATISTICAL ANNEXES

Abbreviations

AFR	WHO African region
AMR	WHO American region
GPA	WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health
EMR	WHO Eastern Mediterranean region
EUR	WHO European region
SEAR	WHO South East Asian region
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization
WPR	WHO Western Pacific region

Annex I. Technical specifications

Survey instrument

This report is based on responses to a questionnaire survey of WHO Member States carried out in 2008-2009. A self-administered questionnaire was constructed to measure countries' actions relative to the Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health (GPA). It consisted of five sections examining actions outlined in the five GPA objectives:

- National policy instruments on workers' health
- Protection and promotion of health at the workplace
- Occupational health services
- Evidence for action and practice
- Workers' health in other policies

This survey included a section asking about the institutions and persons involved in answering the questionnaire. The questionnaire was pretested in six countries across WHO regions and the final instrument was available in English, French, Spanish and Russian. The English version of the final survey questionnaire is provided below.

Data collection

WHO regional and country offices sent the questionnaire via email to national focal points dealing with occupational health in all countries, and to the WHO collaborating centres for occupational health with national functions where applicable.

The respondents were instructed that the questionnaire should be filled out by the national ministry of health, consulting where appropriate with national ministries of labour or employment as well as other ministries and organizations dealing with occupational health. These include ministries responsible for economic sectors and finance, organizations of employers and of workers, academics, occupational health professionals, and social insurance officials. The respondents were asked to base their responses on existing governmental and other formal sources of information; if such information was missing, the responses could be based on expert opinion.

Data processing

The completed questionnaires were coded at WHO headquarters and data were entered into SPSS version 11.5.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Where possible, missing data were inferred from publicly available information on the web, and all variables on the dataset were thoroughly cleaned. Data were analysed globally as well as by WHO region and World Bank income

classification groups¹. Chi-square tests were performed to assess the effect of geographic region and national income on the responses.

Confidentiality

Assurance was given that country-specific data would be kept confidential and the data would be processed in a way that would not allow association of responses with the names of individual countries. After the coding and the entering of the data into the database, the variable with the names of countries was deleted.

Response rate and survey limitations

Completed questionnaires were returned from 121 countries and areas², resulting in an overall response rate of 61% (Table 1). The achieved sample was compared to the list of WHO member states and areas by geographic area (WHO region) and gross national income (World Bank classification). The highest response rate was attained for countries in the European and South-East Asian Region and for high and lower middle income countries, while the American Region and low income countries are relatively underrepresented in the achieved sample. The data cannot be generalized across regional and income groups of countries. The information collected was not validated by independent sources.

Table 1
Response rates by geographic area and national income

Groups of countries	Response rate % (n/N)
Global	61.4 % (121/197)
WHO region	
African	47.8% (22/46)
Americas	27.8% (10/36)
Eastern Mediterranean	68.2% (15/22)
European	90.6% (48/53)
South-East Asian	90.9% (10/11)
Western Pacific	55.2% (16/29)
World Bank	
Low income	48.0% (24/50)
Lower middle income	61.8% (34/55)
Upper middle income	55.8% (24/43)
High income	79.6% (39/49)

In most countries (60%) the questionnaires were filled out jointly by the ministries of health and the ministries of labour, in 26% only by the ministry of health, and in 7% only by the ministry of labour. The participation of different institutions and stakeholders in filling out the questionnaires is shown in Table 2.

¹ Countries were classified according to the 2008 World Bank gross national income, available at <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications>

² "Countries or areas" are subsequently termed "countries," referring to both countries and areas

Table 2

Organizations that participated or were consulted in completing the questionnaire

Organization	Participation % (n) N=121
Ministry of health	85.1% (80)
Ministry of labour (employment)	67.0% (63)
Organizations of academics/professionals	30.9% (29)
Organizations of workers/trade unions	20.2% (19)
Other	16.0% (15)
Ministry responsible for the environment	14.9% (14)
Organizations of employers/industrialists	14.9% (14)
Organizations involved with social security/workers compensation	14.9% (14)
Ministries responsible for economic sectors (industry, trade, mining)	7.4% (7)
Ministry responsible for finance	6.4% (6)

Country questionnaire

Instructions for respondents

The 60th World Health Assembly in 2007 endorsed the WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health 2008-2017 and requested WHO to promote its implementation at the national and international levels with definite time line and indicators.

This survey aims at collecting information from countries about the current state of affairs with regards to the activities under the Global Plan of Action. The information will be used to establish a baseline and to set global targets and indicators of achievement to monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

The questionnaire should be filled out by the national ministry responsible for health. Where appropriate and according to established national practice, the ministry of health may consult the national ministry responsible for labour (employment) as well as other ministries and organizations dealing with occupational health, *e.g.*, ministries responsible for economic sectors and finance, organizations of employers, workers, academics, occupational health professionals and social insurance. The responses should be based on existing governmental and other formal sources of information as far as possible. In case such information is missing, the responses can be based on expert opinion.

The country-specific data will be kept confidential and the data will be processed in a way that will not allow association of responses with the names of individual countries.

Please return the completed questionnaire NO LATER THAN 30 JULY 2009 to:

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*The full text of the WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health
can be downloaded from*

English http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA60/A60_R26-en.pdf

French http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA60/A60_R26-fr.pdf

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