



World Health
Organization

WHO SCHOLAR LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATE COURSE IN DATA IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

LEVEL 1 COHORT 2 – AUTUMN 2019 ONLINE 36–48 HOURS

ENGLISH 16 SEPT–22 NOV 2019 FRENCH 30 SEPT–6 DEC 2019

FRANCOPHONE? [Cliquez ici pour accéder à la page d'information de ce cours en français](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications for the second bilingual (French/English) cohort of the WHO Scholar Level 1 certificate course in **data improvement planning** open to all data managers, M&E officers and epidemiologists interested in better use, collection, and improvement of immunization data.

Applications will be accepted until 29 July 2019.

**Register to attend
the course information briefing
on 12 July at 13:00 Geneva**

[check time](#)

**Click here to register
for this one-time session**



Click here to apply

<https://forms.gle/1Y2QYAg8CreAEQij7>

Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Acceptance by e-mail from WHO before 23 August 2019.

Please whitelist and add scholar@learning.foundation to your address book.

Schedule overview

Dates	English language	French language
16–20 September 2019	Onboarding week	
23–27 September 2019	Orientation week	
30 September–4 October 2019	Week 1	Onboarding week
7–11 October 2019	Week 2	Orientation week
14–18 October 2019	Week 3	Week 1
Term Break: 19 October–3 November 2019		
4–8 November 2019	Week 4	Week 2
11–15 November 2019	Week 5	Week 3
18–22 November 2019	Week 6	Week 4
25–29 November 2019		Week 5
2–6 December 2019		Week 6

Webinars open to everyone on key topics in data improvement

These interactive webinars:

- aim to answer “How do I...?” with practical examples and methods shared by a global expert.
- support the progress of course participants, who will be able to engage directly with the presenters.
- will be open to attendance by those who are not taking the course, with no upper limit to the number of attendees.

Topics might be fine-tuned based on learner needs.

Topic	Course week
Data improvement plan	Week 1
Data for coverage and equity	Week 2
Data use culture	Week 3
Denominators	Week 4
Health Management Information Systems	Week 5
Digital systems	Week 6

Course information page: <https://learning.foundation/who-data-improvement-en>



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WHO SCHOLAR LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATE COURSE IN DATA IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

ONLINE COURSE LEVEL 1 36 HOURS ENGLISH FRENCH

Who should apply?

You stand to benefit from this course if...

- You make decisions or you help others make decisions based on analysis of immunization data.
- You consider that the current limitations of data you work with constrain your ability to make decisions.

You do not need to be a data manager or an M&E officer to qualify. Epidemiologists interested in better use, collection, and improvement of immunization data are encouraged to apply.

Added value

1. Connect with a global community committed to improving immunization through better collection and use of data.
2. Learn from your peers through both formal and informal dialogue, giving and receiving feedback.
3. Compare and share best practice with fellow practitioners and global experts from WHO.
4. Earn a WHO Scholar certificate to demonstrate your improved capabilities for immunization monitoring.
5. Improve capabilities needed to meet the data quality requirements for all types of GAVI support.
6. Help raise the profile of immunization and surveillance data for decision-making as a priority within the immunization and health community at the local, national and global levels, and make it "everyone's business".
7. Develop your digital skills to collaborate and learn remotely.

Learning objectives

Scholars who successfully complete the course are expected to be able to:

- 1 Identify data needed to measure monitoring performance in a country or sub-country context.
- 2 Analyze (using SWOT) immunization monitoring performance data in relation to the overall immunization system goals.
- 3 Identify specific, actionable recommendations to improve monitoring, supported by evidence and aligned to context, strategy, and objectives.

What you will do

The Level 1 certificate course will engage participants in activities that require them to use the WHO Handbook on the use, collection, and improvement of immunization data.

As a participant in this course, you will work on the country of focus of your choice to:

- Complete three weekly community assignments to review data about your country's performance, establish a diagnosis, and identify ways of using data for action.
- Complete a draft Data Improvement Plan that you can use in your work.
- Peer review the draft Plans developed by colleagues.
- Present your findings and analysis to your peers during the weekly discussion group, giving and receiving feedback about your work.
- Join optional workshops to deepen your comprehension of key concepts and hot topics.

Resources and prerequisites

- **WHO Handbook on the use, collection, and improvement of immunization data:** Participants should download and familiarize themselves with the Handbook.
- **Country of focus:** For your country of focus, you are expected to have knowledge (organigram, post descriptions) of EPI and HMIS, especially with respect to monitoring, systems, and analysis. You will need access to relevant documents such as recent data-related reviews (ex: data quality self-assessments [DQS], service availability and readiness assessment [SARA]), strategic plans (ex: cMYPs), recent programme reviews (ex: EPI, PIE, surveillance, etc.), surveillance standards (including case definitions), standard operating procedures (SOPs), tools, and documentation for data-related tasks. Other available documentation related to immunization data that are likely to be helpful to support your progress in the course includes: country bulletins, peer-reviewed literature, ad hoc reports, and other descriptions of the information system.

About the WHO Handbook on the use, collection, and improvement of immunization data

The purpose of the Handbook is to enable country-level decision-makers to:

- Decide what data are needed for programme improvement, and use them for action.
- Develop efficient tools and information systems to collect and analyze immunization data.
- Assess immunization data and systems, and implement data quality improvement plans

The Handbook will be the main resource for both Level 1 and Level 2 certificate courses.

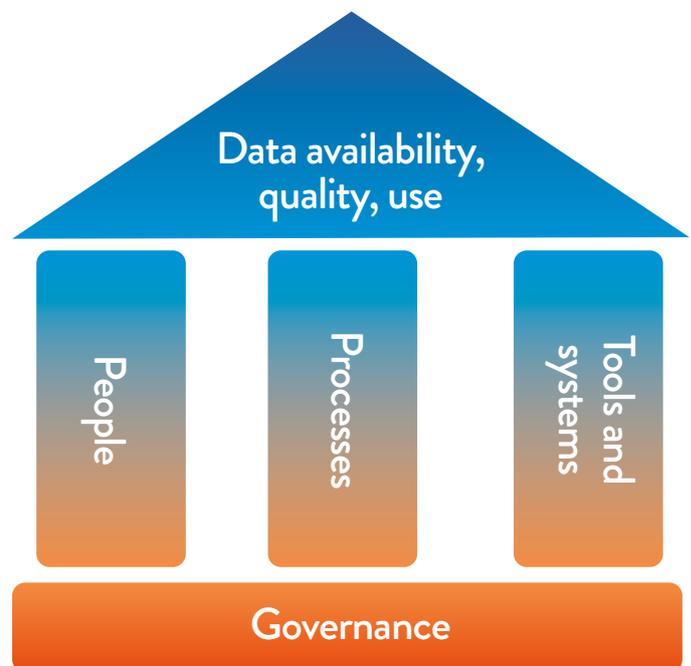
The Global Framework to Strengthen Immunization and Surveillance Data for Decision-making is a companion document to the Handbook.



Download the Handbook



Download the Framework



Workload

Participants should expect to:

- dedicate at least 6-8 hours per week to course work.
- participate remotely in the weekly, 60-minute group discussion that will take place online once a week. (Recordings of these sessions will be made available for those who are unable to attend for valid reasons.)
- complete activities that have been divided into short daily tasks intended to be completed in 30 minutes.

Each set of course activities must be completed within a given week. Participants may schedule their work at any time during the week, except for the weekly group session which is scheduled at a fixed day and time each week. (Those unable to attend for a legitimate reason will be asked to view the session recording to complete a catch-up task.)

In addition to these required activities, webinars on specific topics of immunization routine strategies and practices will be organized.

Certification

Upon successful completion of the course and following validation of your final project and assignments by the course team and subject matter experts at WHO headquarters and regional offices, you will receive a certificate of participation from the World Health Organization. Each certificate is valid for a duration of three years. Certificate holders agree to show upon request a portfolio of their work that includes the project(s) produced in Scholar.

Course information page: <https://learning.foundation/who-data-improvement-en>

Pedagogical approach

WHO has used the Scholar Approach since 2016 to support country-level action planning based on the Global Routine Immunization Strategies and Practices (GRISP) guidelines¹ and effective use of the World Health Organization Vaccination Coverage Cluster Surveys Reference Manual. The approach also draws on evidence-based action and applied learning, leadership acceleration, mentoring, and collaborative methodologies.² This Approach,³ developed by the University of Illinois College of Education and the Geneva Learning Foundation to support effective learning for global health and humanitarian work, combines community of practice, knowledge co-construction, and peer review to support project-based learning.

What does it mean to become a WHO Scholar?

Participants in WHO Scholar courses are called “Scholars”. Those who have successfully completed at least one WHO Scholar course become Alumni, and are invited to join the WHO Scholar network. Some Alumni may choose to volunteer as WHO Scholar Accompanists, offering their support to new Scholars.

Scholars who successfully complete a course may be invited to the WHO Scholar Alumni Community for Impact.

1. Rudi Eggers, Jhilmil Bahl, Devina Ahluwalia, Bill Cope, Reda Sadki, Catherine Russ, Adam Rusch. *The Scholar Approach for immunization capacity-building: Results of a pilot cohort to include GRISP transformative investments in country immunization planning*. Poster session presented at the Teach to Reach Conference (2016).

2. Fuente: Brooks, Ann and Watkins, Karen E. (eds.). (1994): *The Emerging Power of Action Inquiry Technologies*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, pp. 43-55.

3. Cope, Bill, and Mary Kalantzis. “Conceptualizing E-Learning.” Chicago: Common Ground Publishing, 2016.

What is my chance of being selected by WHO for a course?

WHO will select applicants on the basis of information submitted by each applicant during the application process. Please take the time to provide accurate, complete information as requested in the application. Each course announcement includes specific criteria that will be considered when selecting applicants. Please carefully review these criteria. If you do not meet the stated criteria, your application is unlikely to be selected by WHO. Pay attention to the information contained in the announcement, such as the learning time required per week, as some application questions may refer to this information.

If you have applied but were not selected for previous WHO Scholar courses, this has no effect on a new application.

Candidates recommended by qualified WHO staff, country EPI managers, or WHO Scholar Alumni (who have already completed at least one WHO Scholar course) may be given priority, if their applications meet the required criteria.

Technical requirements

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they are able to meet the following requirements.

- ✓ **Information technology:** You will need to access the course web site on a regular basis (preferably every day). Participants need to have access to a reliable Internet connection and a standards-based browser less than two years old (Firefox, Safari, or Chrome). Internet Explorer and Microsoft Edge users will be asked to use a standards-based browser for the course. Mobile-only users will need to use Mobile Chrome in desktop mode when working on their course projects.
 - When working with data, the use of Excel is likely to be required, preferably from a desktop computer.
 - Specific guidance will be provided to those who have bandwidth limitations, intermittent access, or may suffer from disruption of their connection to the Internet.
- ✓ **Languages:** The language of the course are either English or French. Participants are encouraged to schedule extra time if they are not fully proficient writing in the course language.

WHO Scholar Accompanists to support and guide your progress

Throughout each course, participants may receive support from WHO Scholar Accompanists (Accompagnateurs). They are working immunization professionals who have volunteered to support their peers. They know what it is like to juggle a full-time job while participating in rigorous course work. Because they have both the job and learning experience, Accompanists are key actors in the support system to help you succeed in WHO Scholar courses.

Accompanists may or may not have specific expertise in immunization monitoring. Subject matter expertise will be provided by the course team. Rather, Accompanists will help you complete onboarding and orientation in Scholar. They will guide you through the learning process, help you to use the platforms, make sense of the assignments, and ensure that you know what you need to do next.

- Course participants may request the support of an Accompanist
- Some participants will be assigned an Accompanist if there are indications that they may need support.

Both Accompanists and Scholars will receive guidance to ensure that this exchange will be focused and productive.

Alongside the course team and the Accompanists, Scholars will also be invited to connect with each other, to learn from and support each other, but also to rekindle passion for and commitment to our work.

Connecting together as a learning community, we will support each other to strengthen our countries' work to improve immunization.

Honor code

The WHO Scholar community is devoted to learning and the creation of knowledge. We view integrity as the basis for meaningful collaboration. We thus hold honesty – in the representation of our work and in our interactions – as the foundation of our community.

Members of the WHO Scholar community commit themselves to producing course work of integrity – that is, work that adheres to the scholarly and intellectual standards of accurate attribution of sources, appropriate collection and use of data, and transparent acknowledgement of the contribution of others to their ideas, discoveries, interpretations, and conclusions. Cheating on assignments or projects, plagiarizing or misrepresenting the ideas or language of someone else as one's own, falsifying data, or any other instance of dishonesty violates the standards of our community, as well as the standards of the wider world of immunization.

WHO Scholar course participants are required to adhere to a strict Honor Code. Violation of the Honor Code may result in removal from the course, loss of certification (including prior WHO Scholar certificates), and notification of your employer.

Research and evaluation

WHO will review projects developed by Scholars, and may consider some of them for use in the Organization's communication, advocacy and training efforts. If this is the case, WHO will contact you to request your agreement and, if needed, to address any sensitive issues related to its content. Learners may also be invited to participate in education research by the Geneva Learning Foundation and its research partners to evaluate the efficacy of this learning initiative. Participation in this research is completely voluntary, and you may stop taking part at any time. In cases where learners do not consent, no learner data will be collected. Participation or non-participation will have no effect on assessment of your performance in the course or your present or future relationship with WHO.

The WHO Scholar programme is based on the Scholar Approach developed by the Geneva Learning Foundation. The Foundation is developing the programme for the World Health Organization, with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.