

CENTRE FOR EMERGING VIRAL DISEASES

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Dr. Abdirahman Mahamud World Health Organization

Dr. Abdi Mahamud is a globally recognized public health leader and medical epidemiologist with over 20 years of experience in epidemics and pandemic preparedness and response. He currently serves as Director of Health Emergency Alert and Response Operations at the WHO Health Emergencies Programme in Geneva, where he leads WHO's global alert and response functions for acute public health events across more than 80 countries.



Dr. Mahamud has directed WHO's response to over 100 graded emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the global mpox upsurge, and Ebola and Marburg outbreaks in East and Central Africa. As WHO's Global COVID-19 Incident Manager, he coordinated the organization's technical and operational response across 170 countries. He also led the initial COVID-19 response in the Western Pacific Region from Manila in early 2020. He is a key architect of the Global Health Emergency Corps framework and served as a technical expert for the 2024 IHR amendments and the 2025 WHO Pandemic Agreement.

Dr. Mahamud oversees three of WHO's core global response networks: the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), which brings together institutions such as the HUG Center for Emerging Viral Diseases to mount coordinated international responses; the Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) Secretariat, which deploys clinical teams to acute emergencies worldwide; and the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Network, which supports countries in building their emergency command and coordination capacities.