



Nahoko Shindo MD, PhD

Manager, Expert Networks
WHO's Health Emergency Programme
World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

Career Summary

Prof. Shindo is a medical officer in charge of Expert Networks in the Department of Infectious Hazard Management at the Headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO), in Geneva.

The three networks – Epidemic Diseases Clinical Assessment and Response Network (EDCARN), System for Epidemic Laboratory Diagnosis and Specimen Shipment Support, and Epidemic Modelling and Forecasting – draw on resources from across WHO's diverse disease programmes and from experts around the world.

Prof. Shindo's background is in medicine, infectious disease and public health. She trained at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, Radcliff Infirmary in Oxford and Jikei University School of Medicine Hospital in Tokyo, where she also earned her PhD in Medical Science (microbiology and cell immunology).

She went on to train in infectious disease/public health at the Infectious Disease Surveillance Centre of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Tokyo, which is a WHO Collaborating Centre.

Since 2002, when she joined WHO, Dr Shindo has worked in epidemic intelligence and verification, risk assessment, outbreak response, influenza pandemic preparedness and planning.

She participated in WHO's global responses to the outbreaks of SARS and avian influenza, viral hemorrhagic fever in Africa, the 2009 influenza pandemic, novel coronavirus infection, avian influenza H7N9 in China and Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa. She also participated in WHO's response to the Indian Ocean tsunami.

In 2011, she was awarded a professorship by Jikei University School of Medicine.

From 2013 to 2015, Prof. Shindo led WHO's Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Team, where her responsibilities included oversight of the Battle against Respiratory Viruses initiative (BRaVe).

In July 2015, she was assigned to her senior management position of Coordinator. Building on the success of her work with EDCARN, her responsibilities in emergency reform have been expanded to include spearheading the two new networks at WHO.

During emergencies, she serves as a core member of WHO's Strategic Health Operations Centre, which lies at the heart of the Organization's outbreak response.