# How-To Guide to geographical location using [AreaFinder](https://areafinder.streamlit.app/)

## Purpose

This How-To Guide provides clear, step-by-step instructions on how to effectively use the AreaFinder app and follow GPHIN’s guidelines for geographical location of epidemiological events in GPHIN products. The objective is to apply standardized name when reporting on events in GPHIN products, particularly the Daily Report. The guide is designed to ensure consistency, accuracy, and alignment with official [Government of Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/enabling-interoperability/gc-enterprise-data-reference-standards/current-past-official-names-countries-territories-geographic-areas.html) and United Nations geolocation standards ([M49](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/)), enabling the smooth implementation of automated workflows in the GPHIN Collaboration Hub.

## Scope

### This guide covers the following tasks:

* How to use the AreaFinder app to select the appropriate geographical location (continent, region, or country) when describing events to GPHIN products.
* The step-by-step process of applying the geolocation standards outlined in the Daily Report.
* Guidance on ensuring that country names, regional classifications, and geolocation attributes adhere to the official GoC and UN M49 standards.

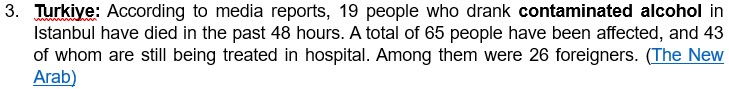
### Audience

This guide is intended for GPHIN analysts and epidemiolgists.

## General Guidelines

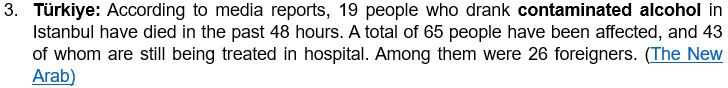
### 1. The names for countries and territories associated with Daily Report entries will be spelled (including accents) in accordance to the names recognized by the [Government of Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/enabling-interoperability/gc-enterprise-data-reference-standards/current-past-official-names-countries-territories-geographic-areas.html).

Consider the event below from the Daily Report of Jan. 16, 2025:



DR entry #3 of 25-01-16

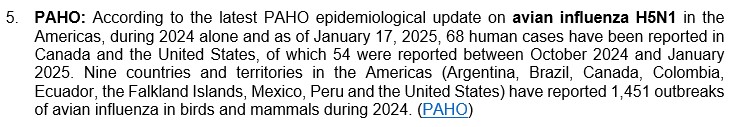
The country, according to the Canadian Government should be written as Türkiye:



DR entry #3 of 25-01-16 corrected

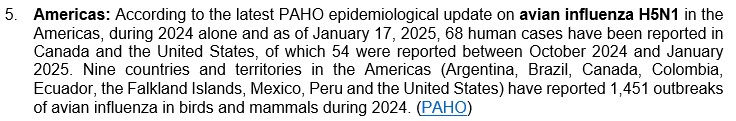
### 2. Daily Report entries no longer will be attributed to institutions, only Geolocalities.

Consider the event below from the Daily Report of Jan. 28, 2025:



DR entry #5 of 25-01-28

This event will be assigned to Americas, as it is the common region for the countries listes in the summmary (see below):



DR entry #5 of 25-01-28

### 3. Daily Report entries with multiple countries and territories will be either assigned to one of the [United Nations geoscheme M49](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_geoscheme) regions or continents, or if this is not possible, it will be assigned to Multiregional or Worldwide following these rules:



UN 22 region map

#### 3a. If the country or territory is within a single region, the name of the region will be assigned.

* + **Example:** If the affected locations are Costa Rica and Panama, the event is assigned to Central America.

#### 3b. If the country or territory includes 2 or more regions within a single continent, the name of the continent will be assigned.

* + **Example:** If the affected locations are Czechia, Germany, and Spain, the event is assigned to Europe.

#### 3c. If the country or territory includes 2 or more regions from different continents, the event will be considered Multiregional.

* + **Example:** If the affected locations are Morocco and Spain the event is assigned to Multiregional.