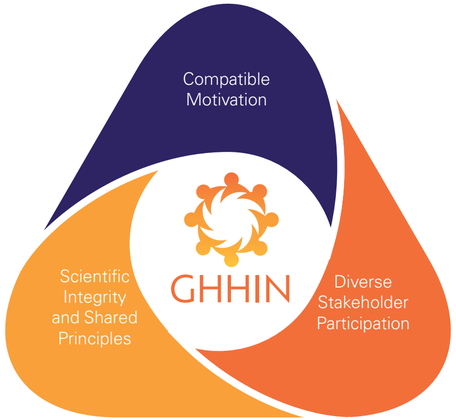
BENEFITS TO MEMBERS

The GHHIN will bring together the work and progress of its members to create a more holistic picture of the needs, science, and strengths across the network, by implementing core activities such as:

- Produce an bi-annual report that synthesizes evidence and needs to inform policy and science
- Convene a bi-annual global forum
- Communicate policy needs and recommendations to key decision-makers
- Host a website and online platform for resource sharing and networking
- Support technical activities of working groups which may form
- Support gap filling activities that add value to members work, such as a Learning and Mentoring program, a global Heat Health Action database, and potentially a global Heat Alert and Support Desk

HOW GHHIN WILL WORK

Membership will be based on the following principles:



The nature of GHHIN is primarily global in scale, but due to intensive ongoing local and regional level activities, regional nodes were created to foster communities of practice and exchange. Current regional nodes are South Asia, Europe, and North America. Future nodes may autonomously emerge in other regions such as Latin America, Middle East, and the Asia Pacific based on participation and demand. Each regional node will respond to regional scale needs, and seek to have an institutional partner lead(s) who takes on responsibilities such as coordination, communication, or specific activities such as leading assessments or resource mobilization in the region.

GHHIN encourages its members to foster bilateral or multilateral relationships to work together on common activities across regions that share common attributes such as climate, geography, or shared challenges/vulnerabilities, and to identify commonalities and foster a culture of sharing and replication of sound evidenced based approaches or products.

CORE ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

COORDINATION & OUTREACH SERVICES

- Bi-Annual International Heat Health Forum
- GHHIN Bi-Annual Report
- Coordination
- GHHIN.ORG
  - Member Profiles
  - Technical Resources
  - News, Science and Events
  - Information Kit

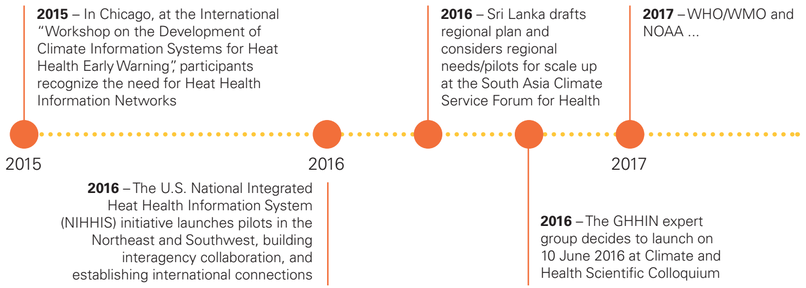
CORE TECHNICAL & CAPACITY BUILDING RESOURCES

- Technical Working Groups
  - Standards & Guidance
  - Vulnerability & Exposure Research
  - Data
  - Forecast Products & Alert Systems
  - Community Interventions
- National Heat Health Profiles
- Heat Alert & Virtual Technical Support Desk
- Heat/Health Learning Exchange Program

REGIONAL NODES

HISTORY OF GHHIN

The concept of the GHHIN was launched in June 2016 by the WMO/WHO joint office for Climate and Health and NOAA Climate Program Office who act as stewards to initiate this effort and propose to build on the US-NOAA NIHHIS Framework as a guiding backbone to the common framework. It is envisioned that network interactions will occur predominantly through virtual connectivity using online, video- and teleconference communications. Annual and periodic technical meetings will be focused on clear objectives, be action-oriented, and produce results-based decisions. Individuals and organizations are invited to participate according to open and agreed upon criteria. Voluntary members are expected to include representatives of academia, governments at all levels, professional associations, international organizations, donor organizations, private sector and non-governmental organizations.



GLOBAL HEAT HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK

WWW.GHHIN.ORG

WHY GHHIN

Every year, tens of thousands of people die as a result of avoidable extreme ambient heat induced health consequences such as heat stroke, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, dehydration, and other complications of heat stress. Countless others experience physiological stress and ill health, and lose productivity and wages as a result of exposure to prolonged excessive ambient temperatures. Over the last couple of decades rising concerns of extreme heat and its management has emerged as a major societal problem. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects the observed trends of heat waves lasting longer, occurring more frequently, occurring earlier in the year, and at increasingly higher than normal temperatures in many parts of the world will continue with high confidence into the future. Recognizing this hazard will only intensify, without additional interventions, these heat waves will increase morbidity and mortality, particularly as the population of vulnerable individuals increases. Fortunately, nearly all adverse health outcomes are preventable through measures that reduce human exposure to dangerous heat in the near and long term.

"Heat Health" is the term used to express the concept of the multiple dimensions which characterize the *"direct human health risks of ambient heat exposure"*

Exposure to rising temperatures is a globally occurring phenomenon, however, the impacts are hyper-local due to socioeconomic, political, place-based and physiological vulnerability. This underlies the need for greater collaboration and sharing of information about how local extreme heat risks are being managed, and points to many benefits which can be gained from harmonized information and sharing of experiences. For example, confusion can arise about the seriousness of a heat wave and when action is needed, and what action should be taken– simply because a political boundary results in vastly different approaches being taken to respond to the same event, as a result of different information being used and different thresholds for action set. Efforts to simply enhance information and experience sharing, linking the local into a global discourse, we believe can result in improved public health interventions and societal benefits.

Many professionals from diverse domains worldwide realize the severity of this issue and are taking important steps to conduct studies, develop local responses, or develop tools to predict heat exposures – yet there is no convergence on the key scientific questions that need to be answered, no unified voice within the health community of what heat exposure risks consist of, no consensus on the standard variables and measurements which are most important, little translation of local good practices to new audiences, and no mechanism to audit and track progress in terms of science, technology, and practice. Without an organized mechanism to assist these efforts to learn from each other, collective progress to-date has been uneven around the world.

The Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) addresses these problems by supporting members in rapidly scaling up efforts to manage the complex human health risks introduced by extreme and increasing ambient heat; and secondly by harmonizing information and improving opportunity sharing across the burgeoning local communities of health professionals, decision makers and scientists motivated to address this issue.

ABOUT GHHIN

The GHHIN (pronounced GIN) is an independent, voluntary, member driven forum of scientists, professionals, and policymakers that seeks to improve the capacity of governments, organizations, and professionals to protect populations from the avoidable health risks of extreme ambient heat. GHHIN does this by focusing on enhancing and multiplying the global and local learning and resilience-building for heat health that is already occurring. GHHIN seeks to serve as a catalyst, knowledge broker, disseminator of good practices, and a forum for facilitating exchange and identifying needs. The GHHIN aims to create a global common space to promote evidence-driven interventions, shared-learning, co-production of information, synthesis of priorities and capacity building that can empower multi-disciplinary actors to take more effective and informed life-saving preparedness and planning measures. In summary, it will help link local solutions to address the global challenge of extreme heat. In order to synchronize learning across global to local heat-health related activities, GHHIN will propose a generic framework that can be used as appropriate by members in their own work, as a common thread to help connect local efforts and learning into the global dialogue.

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE INFLUENCES HEAT WAVES

GHHIN

GOALS

The GHHIN is designed to accelerate the assembly and transmission of knowledge for taking action through four goals: