

# How GHHIN will work

## Coordination

The WHO/WMO Joint office for Climate and Health and NOAA Climate Program Office are providing initial coordination support. Funding to support GHHIN coordination within founding partner institutions is sought to organize meetings, support communications and other activities undertaken on behalf of the network. Voluntary leads from members to develop GHHIN priority activities are welcomed.

## Communication

Network interactions will mostly occur through virtual connectivity using online, video- and teleconference communications, as well as a bi-annual global forum and periodic technical meetings.

## Stewardship and Leadership

GHHIN functions with a “light touch” governance structure. An ad-hoc steering committee has guided the network establishment and served to identify and nominate potential members of the Steering Committee. Regional nodes will be managed voluntarily by designated institutions, stakeholders, or organizations.

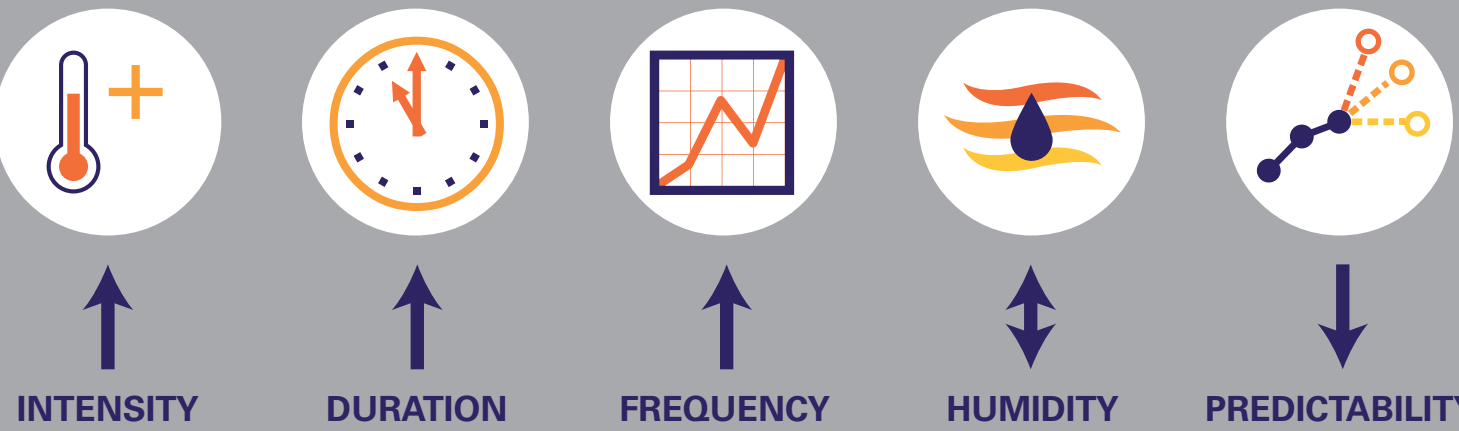
## Network Structure

The nature of GHHIN is primarily global in scale, but due to intensive ongoing local and regional level activities, regional nodes are planned to create communities of practice and exchange to respond to regional scale needs. GHHIN will encourage 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. A goal of GHHIN is to identify such commonalities and to foster sharing and replication of sound evidenced based approaches or products.

## Funding Modalities

GHHIN will not be a funding or grant making mechanism, nor will it be a fee based association. Members are responsible for raising and managing funds for activities that contribute to GHHIN.

### How Climate Change Influences Heat Waves



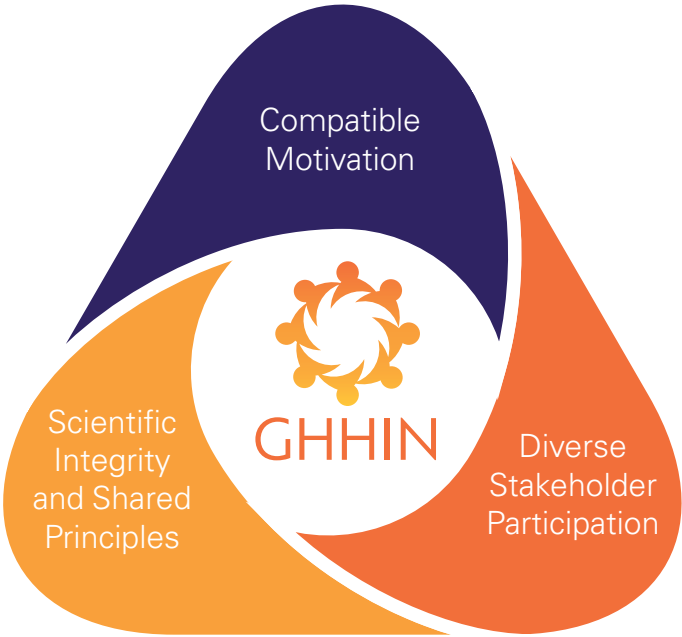
# Who should join GHHIN

**Membership** is expected to be based on:

**Diverse Expertise and Perspectives:** Professional members are expected to self-select their participation in the Network to enhance inclusion of a broad range of professionals from around the world. Organizations and professionals from government agencies, academic institutions, international organizations, professional associations, NGOs and private-sector boundary institutions, with expertise in public health, medicine, meteorology, climate resilience, urban planning, communications, social work, emergency management, and other relevant fields will be interested to participate and join GHHIN.

**Compatible Motivation:** It is expected that the mission and values of our members will be compatible with the GHHIN vision to protect public health. To facilitate shared learning, alignment and comparability, members are encouraged to the extent possible, align their own work with a common heat health framework.

**Scientific integrity and shared principles:** Members will be encouraged to uphold scientific integrity in their work and respect the shared principles of good public health practice.



## Benefits to Members

Access to Information	Opportunities to Engage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Relevant information and tools</li><li>▶ Opportunities for mentorship with expert guidance and training</li><li>▶ ‘Tried and true’ intervention methods tied to robust evidence</li><li>▶ Opportunities for collaboration between regional nodes, and private-public sectors</li><li>▶ Guidance on the translation of research to practice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Participate in co-learning that jointly defines the problem and develops effective solutions</li><li>▶ Inform agendas and priorities for Research, Assessment, and Products</li><li>▶ Share and engage with others in their work</li><li>▶ Work collaboratively with stakeholders in addressing shared challenges for a common interest</li><li>▶ Draw upon advocacy for action</li><li>▶ Shape the common voice of the community</li></ul>

## Interested in joining GHHIN?

**Go to [www.ghhin.org](http://www.ghhin.org)** and create your GHHIN profile to share your interests and areas of contribution!

For more information please contact: Joy Shumake-Guillemot [jshumake-guillemot@wmo.int](mailto:jshumake-guillemot@wmo.int) and Juli Trtanj [jrtanj@noaa.gov](mailto:jrtanj@noaa.gov)



Linking local knowledge and solutions to address the global challenge of extreme heat



[WWW.GHHIN.ORG](http://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. Rising concerns of how to safely manage living and working in extreme heat conditions has now emerged as a major societal problem due to climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects with high confidence 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. Experts are sending strong messages that heat waves will increase the number of deaths, illnesses, and societal impacts, particularly as the population of vulnerable and exposed individuals increases. Fortunately, nearly all adverse health outcomes of human exposure to dangerous heat are preventable with targeted and informed actions.

**Exposure to rising temperatures is a globally occurring phenomenon**, however, its **impacts are hyper-local** due to socioeconomic, political, place-based and physiological vulnerabilities. This underlies the need for greater collaboration and sharing of information about how local extreme heat risks are being managed.

Many local governments and professionals from diverse domains worldwide realize the severity of this issue and are taking important steps to conduct studies, develop tools to predict heat exposures and local responses. – yet there is little convergence on the key scientific questions, no unified voice within the health community, 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 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. **We believe the Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) can help members in their own work to generate societal benefits by facilitating shared learning about local solutions, harmonizing information, and accelerating improvements in the global capacity to prepare for and respond to extreme heat.**

# What is GHHIN?

## Vision

*GHHIN will improve the capacity of governments, organizations, and professionals to protect populations from the avoidable health risks of extreme ambient heat.*

GHHIN (pronounced GIN) is an independent, voluntary, member driven forum of scientists, professionals, and policymakers focused on enhancing and multiplying the global and local learning and resilience-building for heat health that is already occurring.

GHHIN aims to create a 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. It seeks to be a catalyst, knowledge broker and a forum for facilitating exchange and identifying needs.

GHHIN will help link **local knowledge and solutions** to address the global challenge of **extreme heat**.

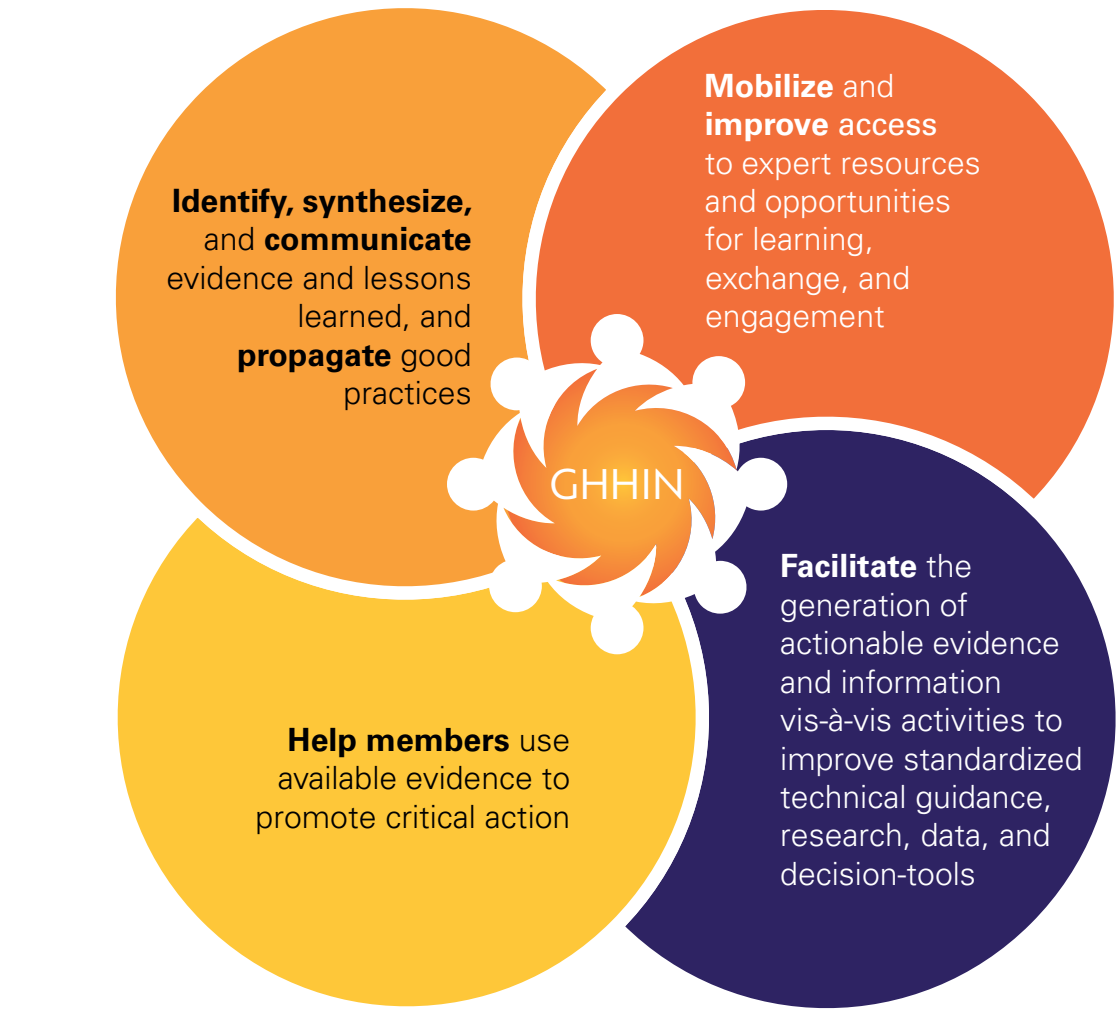
To synchronize learning across global to local heat and health related activities, GHHIN will propose a generic framework that can be used as appropriate by members in their own work.

GHHIN was launched in June 2016 by the World Health Organization/World Meteorological Organization Joint Office for Climate and Health, the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program Office and an ad-hoc expert committee who act as stewards to initiate this effort. Individuals and organizations are invited to participate and respect common principles of engagement. Voluntary members are expected to include relevant self-selected professionals from academia, governments at all levels, professional associations, international organizations, donor organizations, private sector and non-governmental organizations who wish to share and engage.

# What will GHHIN do?

## Goals

GHHIN is designed to accelerate and broker actionable knowledge through four goals:



## Services

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. Members can benefit from:

GHHIN addresses a two-fold problem – first **the need to rapidly scale up efforts** to manage the complex human health risks introduced by extreme and increasing ambient heat; and secondly **the need to harmonize and improve information and opportunity sharing** across the burgeoning local communities of health professionals, decision makers and scientists motivated to address this issue.



“Heat Health” is the term used to express the concept of the multiple dimensions which characterize the “human health risks of ambient heat exposure.”

