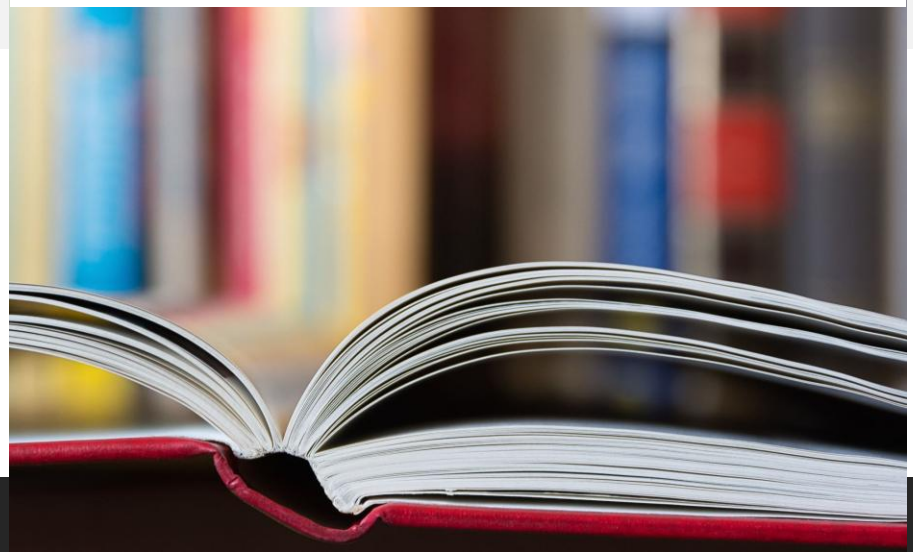
Introduction to the WHO Library

Dr Raqibat Idris (MBBS, DO, MPH)

Training course in research methodology, research protocol development and scientific writing

Geneva, 2025



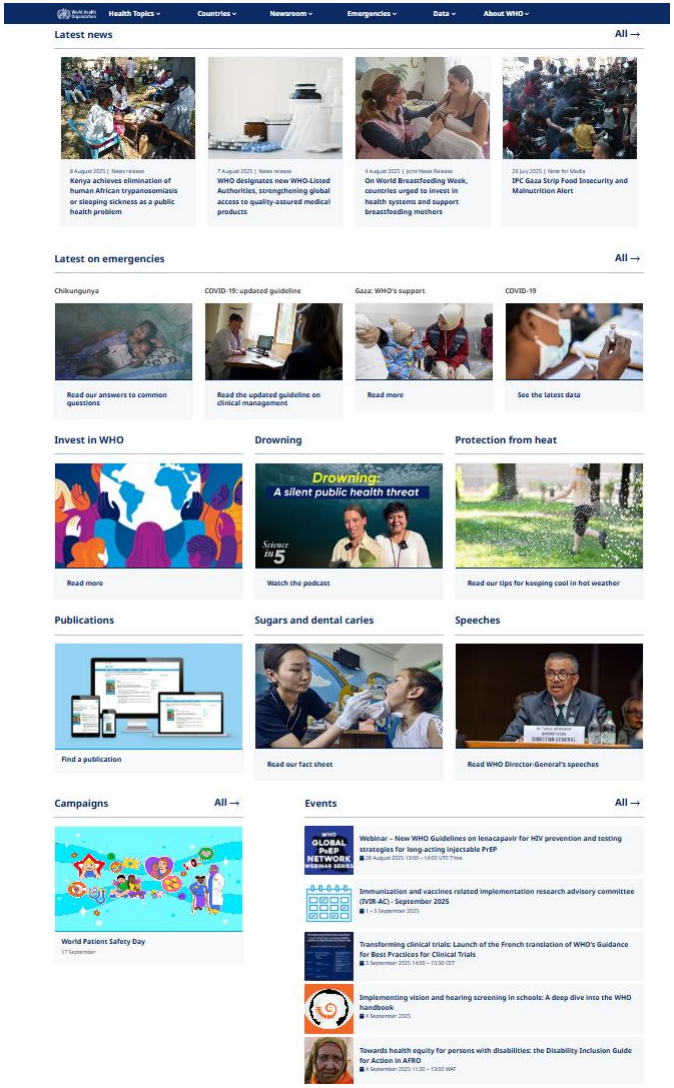
Objective

- To introduce readers to the WHO Library resources and how to search for information in the Library

WHO website

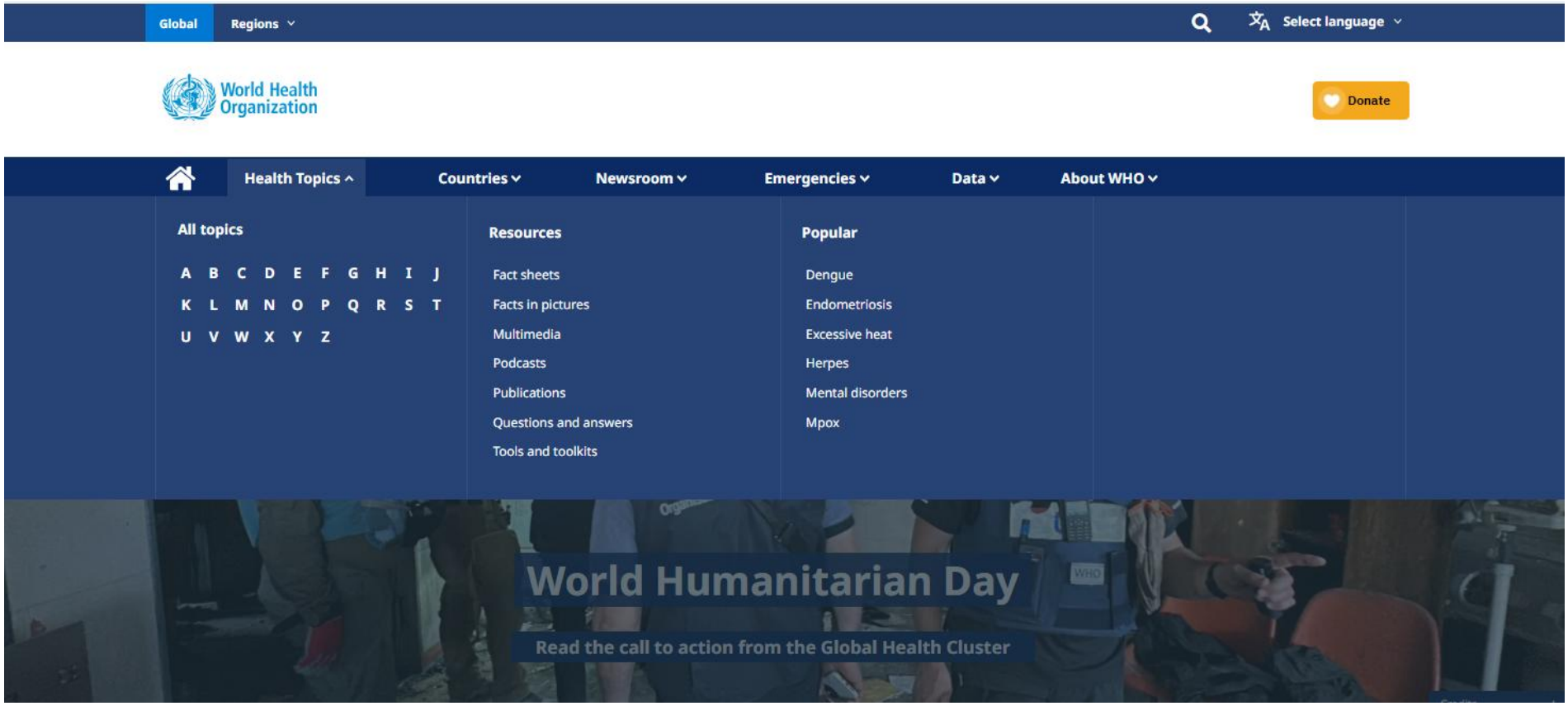
https://www.who.int/

WHO website



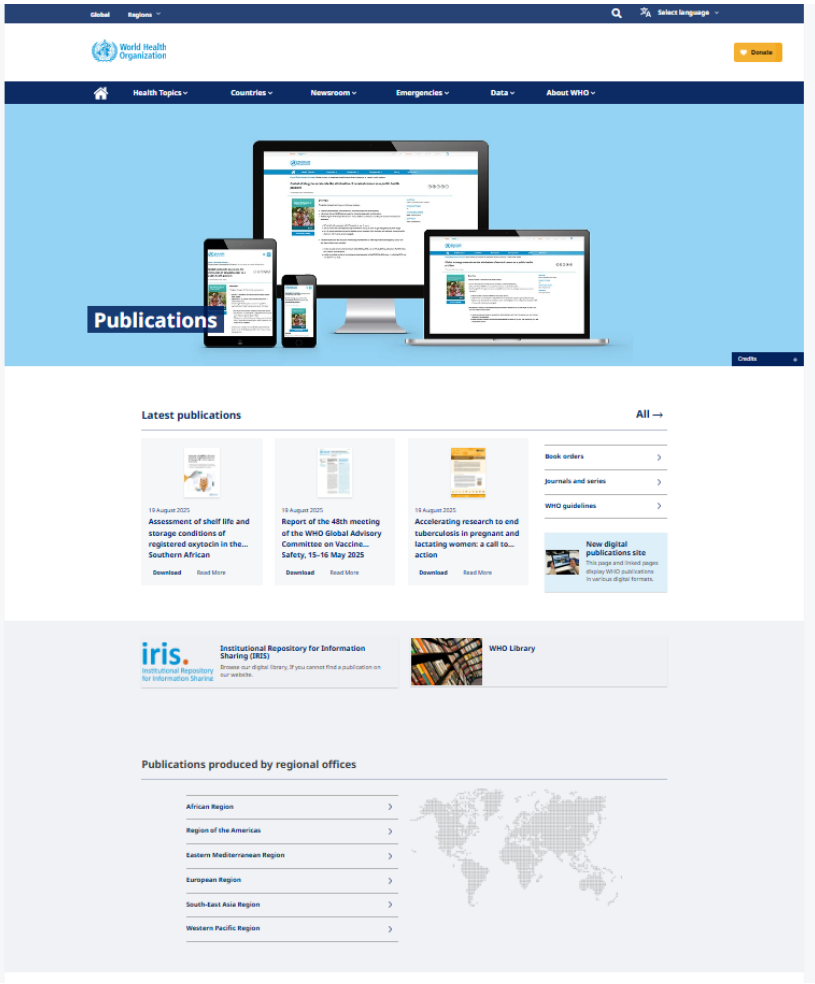
https://www.who.int/

WHO website

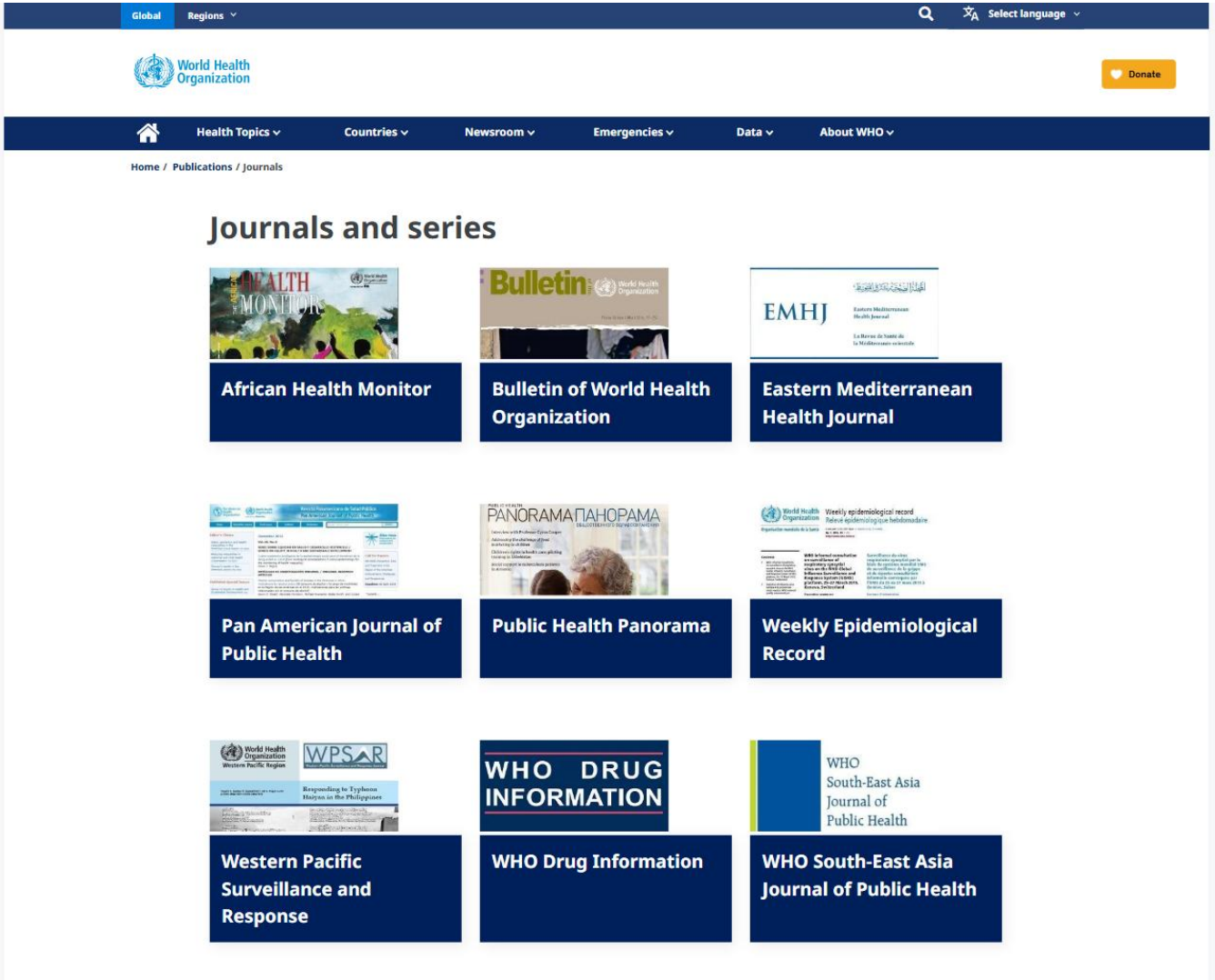


https://www.who.int/

WHO website


Global
Regions
Select language
World Health Organization
Donate
Health Topics
Countries
Newsroom
Emergencies
Data
About WHO
Publications
Credits
Latest publications
All →
19 August 2025
Assessment of shelf life and storage conditions of registered oxytocin in the... Southern African
Download
Read More
19 August 2025
Report of the 48th meeting of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine... Safety, 15-16 May 2025
Download
Read More
19 August 2025
Accelerating research to end tuberculosis in pregnant and lactating women: a call to... action
Download
Read More
Book orders
Journals and series
WHO guidelines
New digital publications site
This page and linked pages display WHO publications in various digital formats.
iris.
Institutional Repository for Information Sharing
Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS)
Browse our digital library. If you cannot find a publication on our website.
WHO Library
Publications produced by regional offices
African Region
Region of the Americas
Eastern Mediterranean Region
European Region
South-East Asia Region
Western Pacific Region

WHO website

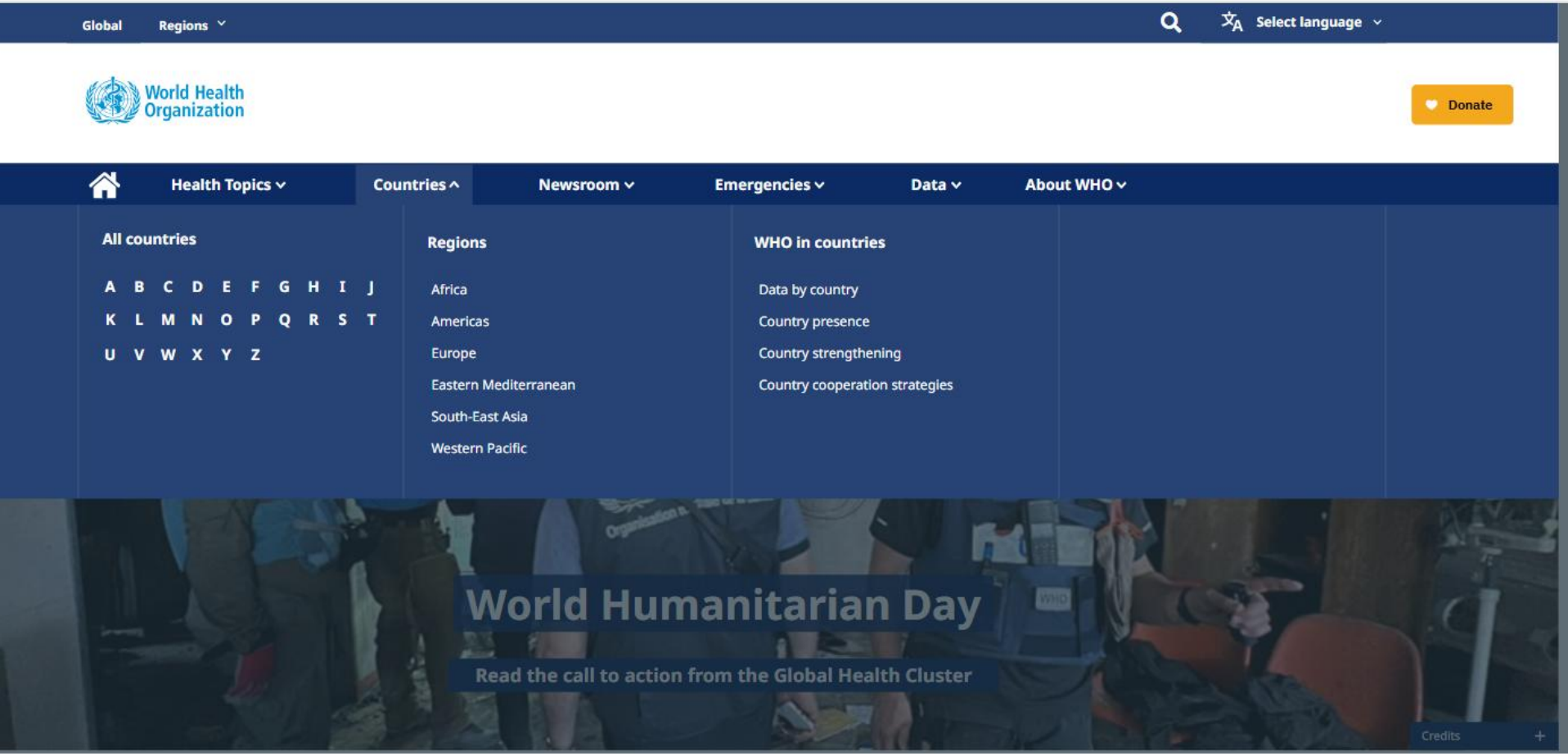

Global
Regions
Select language
World Health Organization
Donate
Health Topics
Countries
Newsroom
Emergencies
Data
About WHO
Home / Publications / Journals
Journals and series
African Health Monitor
Bulletin of World Health Organization
Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal
Pan American Journal of Public Health
Public Health Panorama
Weekly Epidemiological Record
Western Pacific Surveillance and Response
WHO Drug Information
WHO South-East Asia Journal of Public Health

WHO website

The Bulletin of the World Health Organization

- A **fully open-access** journal of public health with a special focus on low and middle-income countries, first published in 1948.
- There are **no article-processing charges** associated with submitting to, or publishing in the *Bulletin*.
- All peer-reviewed articles and the journal archives are indexed, including in the Web of Science and MEDLINE, and are freely available under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 IGO license (CC BY 3.0 IG0).

WHO website



https://www.who.int/

WHO website

World Health Organization
Data

WHO Global | Language

Indicators **Countries** **Dashboards** **About**

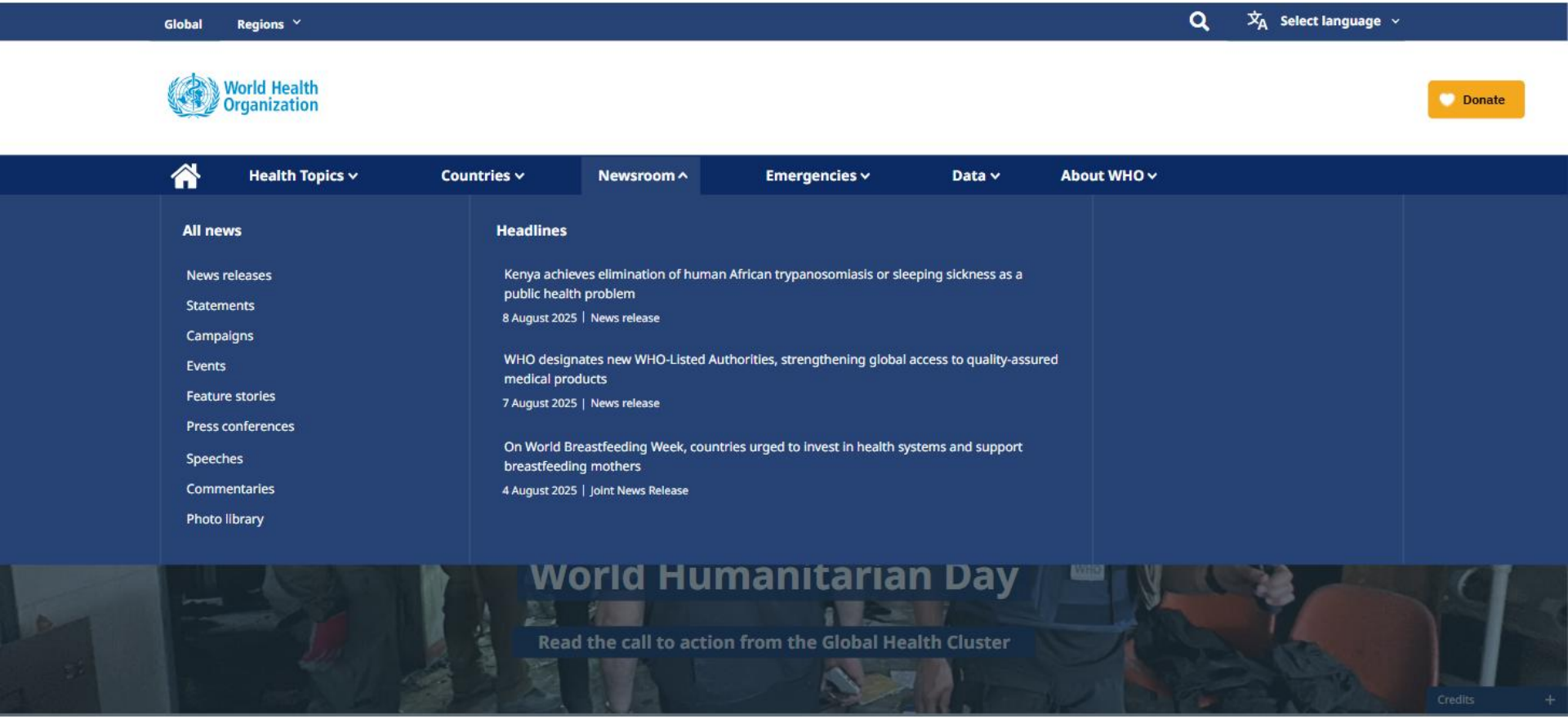
All	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z									

A

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola

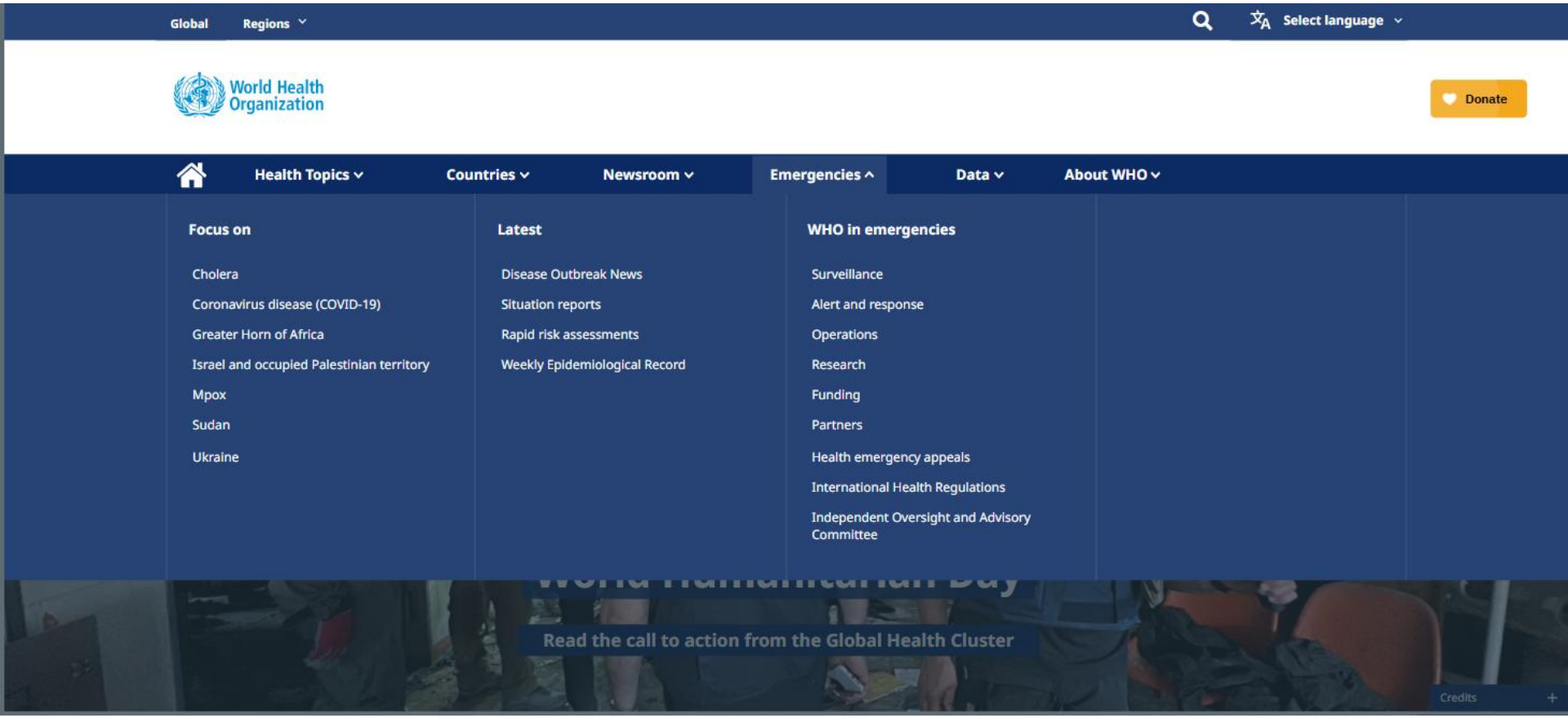
https://www.who.int/

WHO website



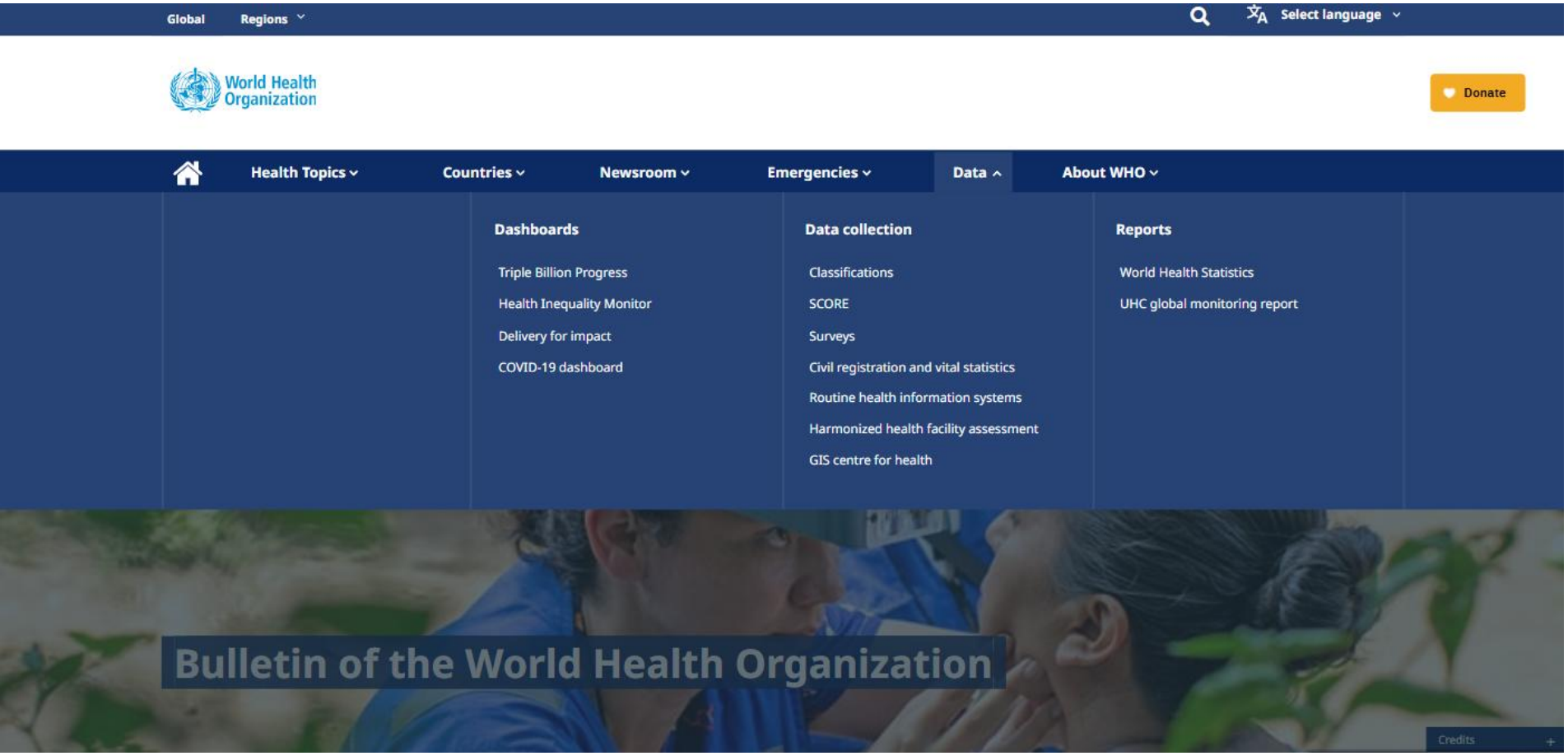
https://www.who.int/

WHO website



https://www.who.int/

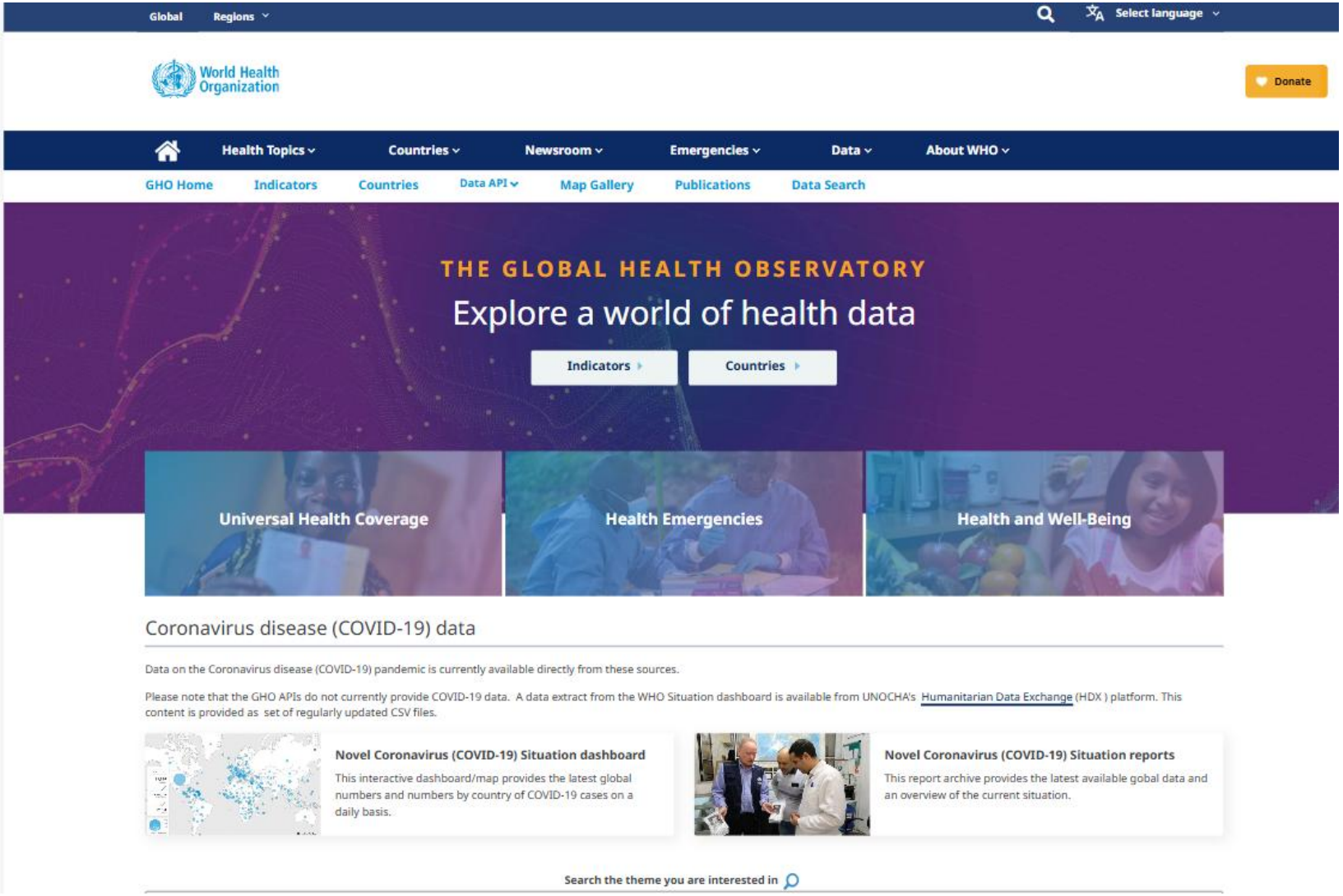
WHO website



https://www.who.int/

WHO website

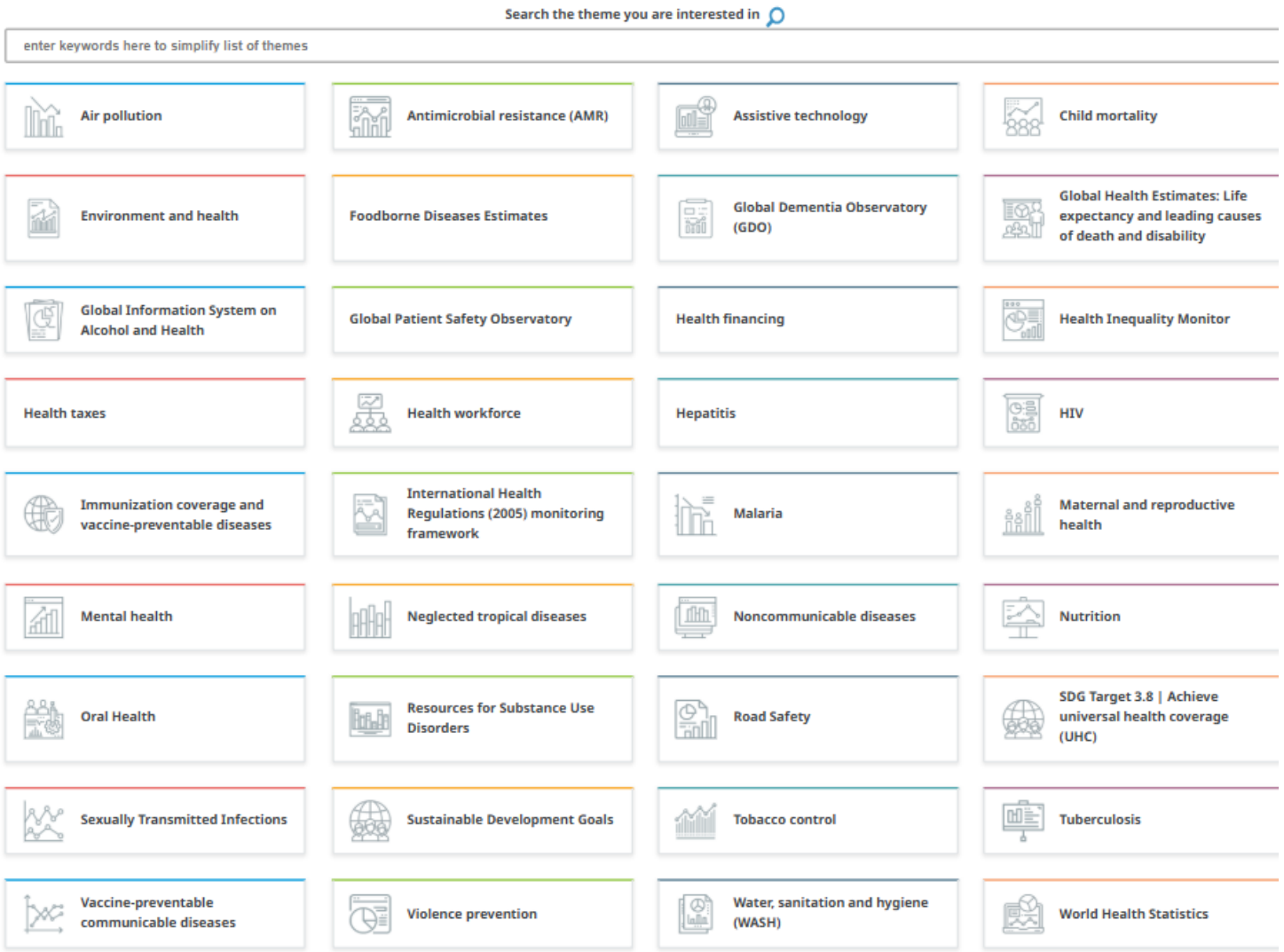
The Global Health Observatory



https://www.who.int/

WHO website

The Global Health Observatory



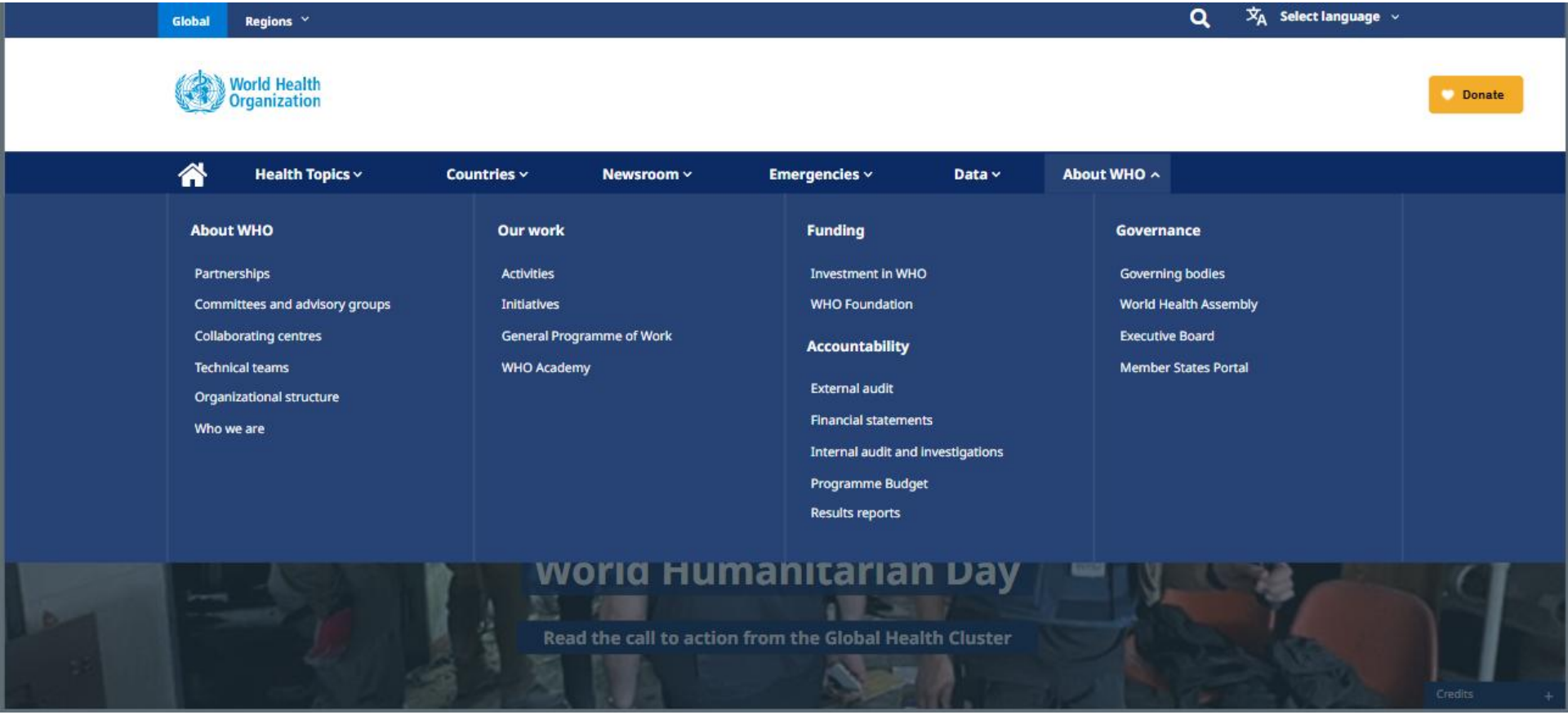
https://www.who.int/

WHO website

The Global Health Observatory

https://www.who.int/

WHO website



https://www.who.int/

WHO website

World Patient Safety Day
17 September

Immunization and vaccines related implementation research advisory committee (IVIR-AC) - September 2025
1 – 5 September 2025

Transforming clinical trials: Launch of the French translation of WHO's Guidance for Best Practices for Clinical Trials
3 September 2025 14:00 – 15:30 CET

Implementing vision and hearing screening in schools: A deep dive into the WHO handbook
4 September 2025

Towards health equity for persons with disabilities: the Disability Inclusion Guide for Action in AFRO
4 September 2025 11:30 – 13:00 WAT

Regions
- Africa
- Americas
- Eastern Mediterranean
- Europe
- South-East Asia
- Western Pacific

Policies
- Cybersecurity
- Ethics
- Information disclosure
- Permissions and licensing
- Preventing sexual exploitation
- Terms of use

About us
- Careers
- Frequently asked questions
- Library
- Procurement
- Publications

Contact us

Newsletters

Report misconduct

World Health Organization

Privacy policy

© 2025 WHO

https://www.who.int/

WHO Library

https://www.who.int/library

- The world's leading library on public health.
- It provides access to knowledge from WHO as well as to other sources of scientific literature produced around the world.
- WHO library resources and expertise provide scientific evidence and knowledge to low- and middle- income countries through a set of low-cost/high-use initiatives.

WHO Library initiatives

- **Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS)** https://iris.who.int/
- **Global Index Medicus** https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/
- **Research4Life** https://www.research4life.org/

WHO Library: Useful links

Useful links

Publications
Browse WHO's publications

WHOLIS: WHO Geneva Library print catalogue
All library collections in print are included in an unified database

WHO Internships
We encourage participation – get involved in our programmes as an intern!

Search strategies
A repository of search strategies developed for use in systematic reviews.

WHO Regional Office Libraries

- WHO African Region (AFRO) ›
- WHO Region of the Americas (AMRO/PAHO) ›
- WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO) ›
- WHO European Region (EURO) ›
- WHO South-East Asia Region (SEARO) ›
- WHO Western Pacific Region (WPRO) ›

Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS)

- Accessible from: https://iris.who.int/
- Digital library of WHO's published material and technical information in full text produced since 1948
- Freely accessible and searchable content in the six official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish)
- Information can be browsed by communities & collections, issue date, authors, titles, subjects, countries or the most popular subject

- **Watch the following video guides:**

1. New IRIS interface – quick tour (1:13 mins)
2. How to search in IRIS - quick tour (2.28 mins)
3. IRIS statistics - quick tour (2.19 mins)

Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS)

https://iris.who.int/

Global Index Medicus (GIM)

https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/

- Provides universal access to biomedical and public health literature produced by and within low- and middle-income countries.
- Main objective is to increase the visibility and usability of these resources.
- Material is collated and aggregated by WHO Regional Office Libraries on a central search platform allowing retrieval of bibliographical and full text information.

Read the GIM search quick guide

Global Index Medicus (GIM)

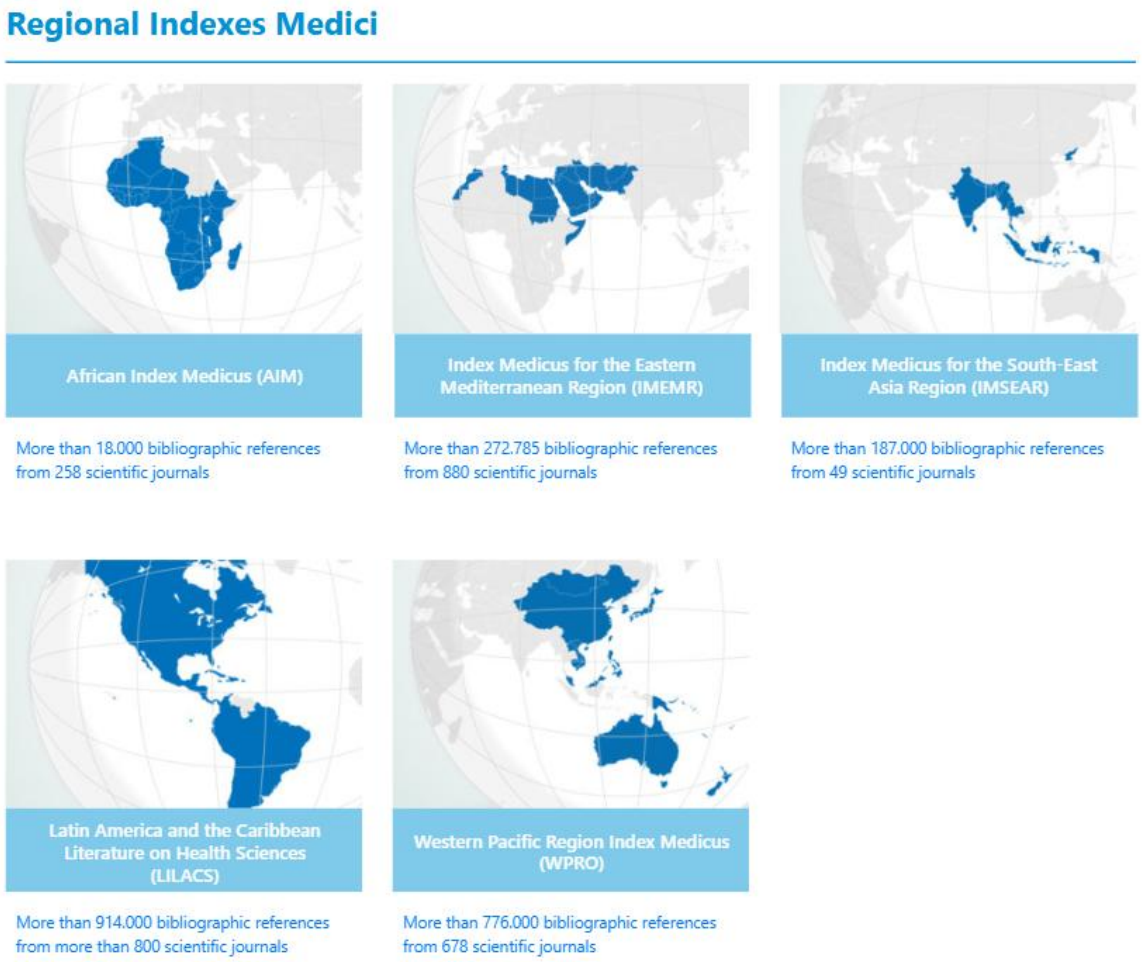
https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/

- All information from the Regions can be found in the same search interface.
- Also possible to access them individually from the Regional Indexes Medici:
  - African Index Medicus – AIM (AFRO/WHO)
  - Scientific and Technical Literature of Latin America and the Caribbean – LILACS (AMRO-PAHO/WHO, by its specialized center BIREME)
  - Index Medicus for Eastern Mediterranean Region – IMEMR (EMRO/WHO)
  - Index Medicus for South-East Asia Region – IMSEAR (SEARO/WHO)
  - Western Pacific Region Index Medicus – WPRIM (WPRO/WHO)

Global Index Medicus (GIM)

https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/

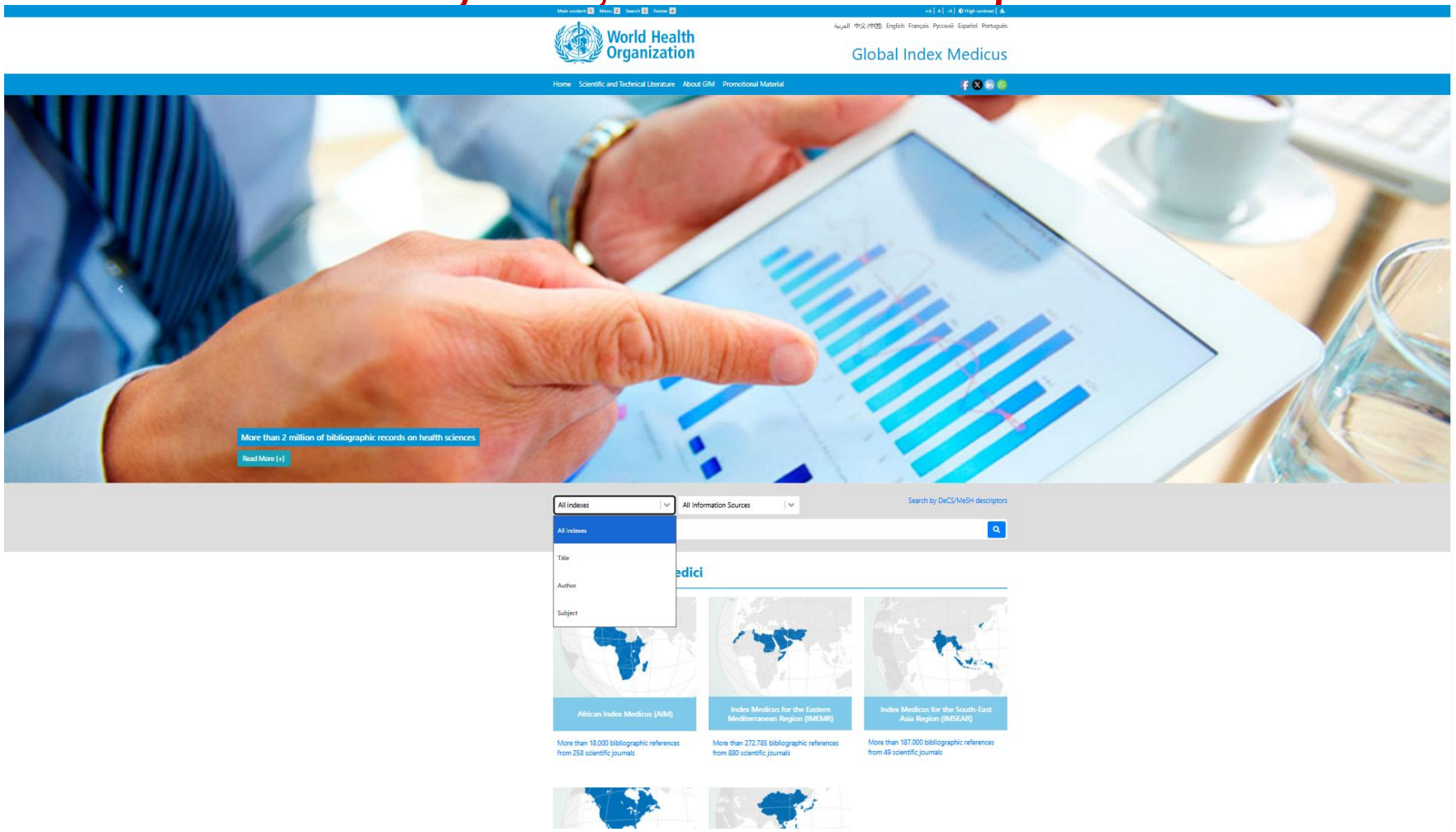
- More than 1.9 million of documents available in all Regional Indexes Medici together, of which more than 1 million have full text access.



Global Index Medicus (GIM)

https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/

- Menu: search by title, author or subject



Global Index Medicus (GIM)

https://www.globalindexmedicus.net/

- Menu: search by information sources

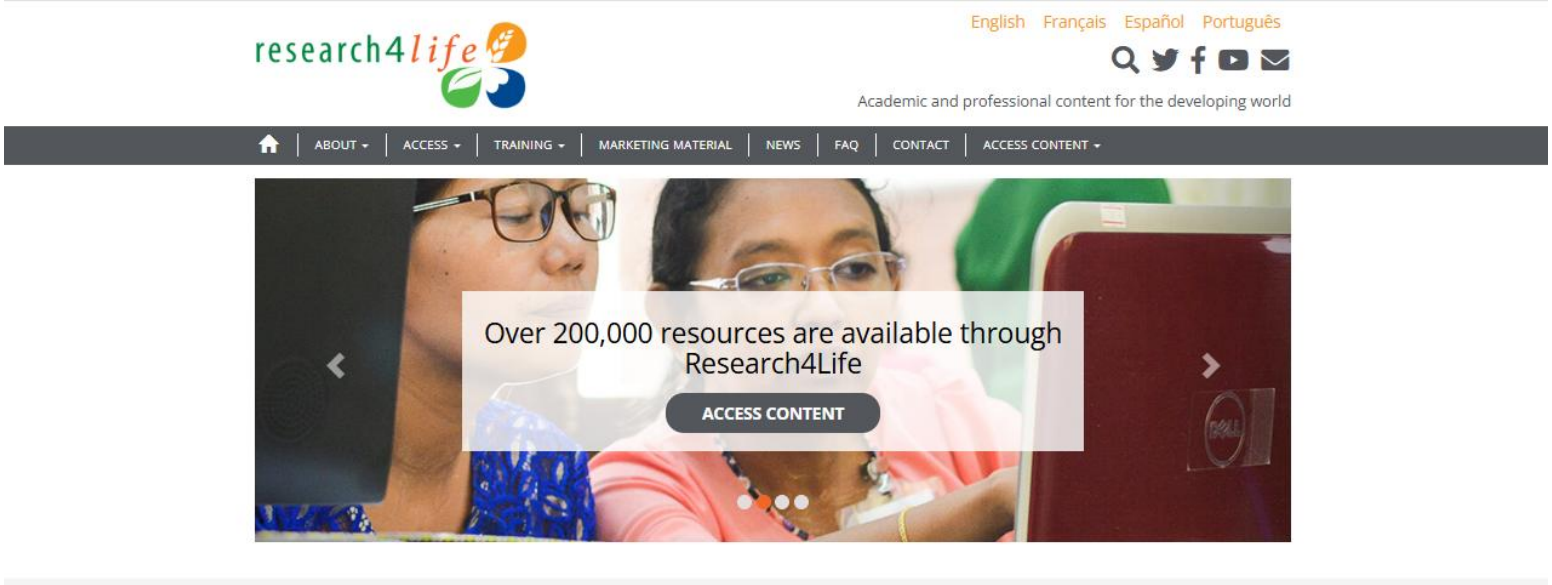
Research4Life

https://www.research4life.org/

- Provides institutions in lower income countries with online access to academic and professional peer-reviewed content.
- The aim is to improve teaching, research and policy-making in health, agriculture, the environment and other life, physical and social sciences.

Accessing Research4Life

https://www.research4life.org/

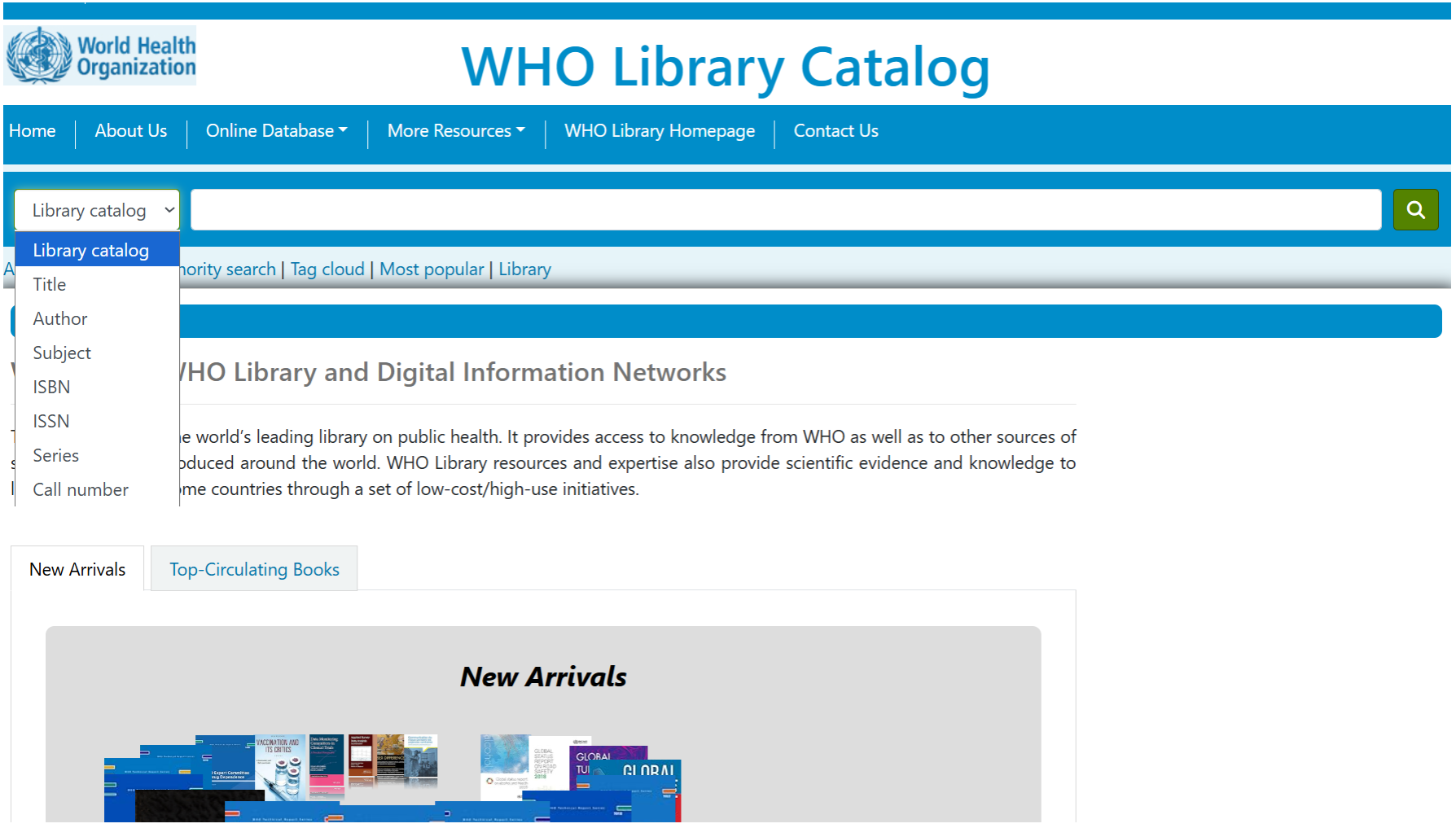


- Only institutions are eligible to register for access; individuals are not.
- An academic, government or research institution in a low- and middle-income country may be eligible to join Research4Life.
- Learn more about the Eligibility for access to Research4Life and the Eligibility criteria.
- Learn how to search the Research4Life Unified Content Portal.
- Using Research4Life and the wider scholarly communications landscape.
- Quick videos: Introduction to Research4Life, New Research4Life Portal | Getting started, How to register to Research4Life.

WHOLIS: WHO Geneva Library print catalogue

https://kohahq.searo.who.int/

- Contains all library collections in print in a unified database.



WHO Regional office libraries

- WHO African Region (AFRO)
- WHO Region of the Americas (AMRO/PAHO)
- WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO)
- WHO European Region (EURO)
- WHO South-East Asia Region (SEARO)
- WHO Western Pacific Region (WPRO)

Other information sources

- BIGG – International database of GRADE guidelines
- Epistemonikos – Combines the best of Evidence-Based Health Care, information technologies and a network of experts to provide a unique tool for people making decisions concerning clinical or health-policy questions
- Hinari – Access to Research for Health programme
- PAHO IRIS – Institutional Repository of PAHO/WHO
- Pubmed – Comprises more than 29 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full-text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.
- RedETSA/BRISA – Regional Base of Health Technology Assessment Reports of the Americas
- SciELO – Scientific Electronic Library Online.
- Virtual Health Library (VHL) – A model, strategy, and operational platform for information management, coordinated and promoted by the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME/PAHO/WHO).
- WHO video channel

WHO Library contact

- World Health Organization
  WHO Library and Digital Information Networks
  Avenue Appia 20
  1211 Geneva 27
  Switzerland
  Telephone: +41(0)22 791 2062
  Email: library@who.int

- You can also use the WHO Library research/information request form available at: https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/282679?lang=en

Thank you!