

Dr. Gina Samaan

Team Lead, PIP Framework Secretariat Unit Manager a.i., Global Preparedness Platforms, World Health Organization, Switzerland

Dr. Gina Samaan is an infectious disease epidemiologist with a career focus on pandemic risk management. At the World Health Organization (WHO), she leads a global initiative to strengthen preparedness and resilience for future pandemic through a disease 'mode of transmission' lens. She also leads the global coordination on the Global Genomic Surveillance Strategy for Pathogens with Pandemic and Epidemic Potential. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Samaan established a response unit focusing on country support, technical monitoring and liaison with the United Nations (UN) country teams through the UN Development Coordination Office. Samaan has been working for WHO for over 10 years at the country, regional and headquarters levels. In recent years, Samaan managed the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework Partnership Contribution for strengthening country capacities. In 2014-2021, the collective investments made by countries, partners and WHO have resulted in 68% of the world's 194 countries strengthening their participation in global influenza surveillance systems. Samaan previously worked and consulted for agencies including US-CDC, USAID, DFAT Australia, IOM, RTI International and the Australian Department of Health to design or implement disease control initiatives. She is fluent in three languages. Her research interests include the management of acute respiratory infections and mass gatherings.