

Issue 22/2023

Weekly Public Health Report

Bosnia and Herzegovina

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WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGE FOR MAY 2023

In his message reviewing the month of May 2023 in the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, remarked that this was indeed a significant period, having achieved important milestones as well as the fact that several critical decisions have been made during the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly. Here are the key points highlighted:

End of Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEIC): On 5 May 2023, the global outbreak of COVID-19 was no longer considered a PHEIC. A week later, the same decision was made for mpox. While the viruses still pose challenges, the emergency phases have concluded, marking a collective achievement by WHO, partners, communities, and health workers globally.

Increased Assessed Contributions to WHO: Member States decided to raise their assessed contributions by 20% for the 2024-2025 biennium. This commitment signifies a major increase in sustainable financing for WHO's operations: from US\$ 1 billion to US\$ 1.2 billion for the next two years. This decision represents an essential step in rectifying the long-standing stagnation and even decline in assessed contributions to WHO. Additionally, it marks the most substantial increase in recent history, with the last increase being 3% for 2018-2019. Member States have also indicated their intent to further increasing their Assessed Contributions, potentially doubling the current levels by 2030.

Investment Round and Financial Predictability: Member States have supported the proposal to hold the first "Investment Round" in WHO's history during the last quarter of 2024. This round aims to generate increased flexible and voluntary funding to ensure financial predictability for WHO's operations from 2025 to 2028. The goal is to lay out the funding framework in the Fourteenth General Programme of Work.

Strengthening Country Offices: The additional resources received from Member States will be primarily dedicated to enhancing WHO's country offices. This commitment aligns with the goal of achieving the greatest impact in improving people's health.

Member States' Trust and Support: The actions taken by Member States reflect their trust and faith in the work of WHO. Despite facing immense stresses in recent years, WHO's work has demonstrated its relevance and impact worldwide. Member States' support will further assist WHO's ongoing country-led transformation, ensuring that staff based in Country Offices are efficient and effective in their work.

World Health Assembly's Significance: The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly provided an opportunity to celebrate 75 years of collaboration between WHO and Member States. It showcased WHO's mission, relevance, and impact through various agenda items, high-level events, strategic roundtables, and the "Walk the Talk" initiative.

Appreciation for WHO Colleagues: The message expresses deep respect and admiration for WHO colleagues at all levels – country, regional, and headquarters – for representing the Organization worldwide. They are regarded as ambassadors for WHO, recognized by Member States and the citizens they serve. The impact of their work on global public health during WHO's 75th anniversary year will leave a lasting legacy.

The message highlights the significant achievements, commitments, and support received by WHO during the past month, emphasizing the collective efforts to address global health challenges and strengthen the Organization's work.

“LEFT BEHIND IN PAIN”

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released a report called “**Left Behind in Pain**” concerning the inequitable global distribution of morphine for medical use. Despite its efficacy and affordability for relieving severe pain, medical access to morphine differs greatly across countries, with a 5- to 63-fold difference in median consumption between high-income and lower-income countries. This disparity doesn't align with medical needs, as indicated by pain duration and severity in patients with terminal illnesses.

The report supports previous findings of the 2018 Lancet Commission, stating that the richest 10% of countries possess 90% of the distributed morphine-equivalent opioids. Access to morphine is influenced by various factors such as good governance, procurement processes, resource availability, restrictive legislation, service provision, and societal attitudes.

A survey in the report, involving 105 WHO Member States, demonstrated that barriers and facilitators to morphine access differ depending on country context. For instance, low- and middle-income countries commonly reported irregular morphine supply due to limited financing. Over a third of respondents identified legislative and regulatory hurdles while also acknowledging their importance for safe access.

The report emphasizes that, while opioid use concerns are valid, these concerns should not compromise the benefits of appropriate opioid use in pain management. The report suggests action areas to improve access to morphine for medical reasons, improved governance, streamlined procurement and supply processes, stable funding, upskilling of the health workforce, and awareness campaigns about opioids' potential benefits and harms. It also stresses the need for collaboration at all levels for these actions to succeed.

Morphine is an essential medicine for relieving moderate to severe pain. It is also essential for treating severe breathlessness that is refractory to the treatment of the underlying cause, especially at the end of life. Its medical uses span multiple clinical settings in today's medical practice, including surgical care, cancer care, palliative care, emergency care, paediatric care, and long-term care. It is the most basic requirement for the provision of palliative care

Safe and timely access to morphine is important for public health, but access is known to be inadequate in many countries. This report describes the extent and causes of global variations in access to morphine for medical use. It seeks to understand the enablers for and barriers to safe access to morphine for medical use and proposes actions through balanced policy to address them.

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/16-06-2023-people-with-medical-needs-are-left-behind-in-pain--reveals-new-report>.

The full report is available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240075269>.

LAUNCHING THE INAUGURAL DAY OF THE WEEK OF QUALITY

Week of Quality 2023

The highly anticipated Week of Quality, from 12-16 June 2023, organized by the Local Production and Assistance (LPA) Unit in the Regulation and Prequalification Department (RPQ), in the Access to Medicines and Health Products Division (MHP), started at WHO Headquarters. The opening and

welcoming remarks were delivered by Dr Yukiko Nakatami, Assistant Director-General for the MHP Division, and Dr Jicui Dong, Unit Head of the LPA Unit. This event marks a significant milestone in emphasizing the paramount importance of quality in the local production of vaccines, medicines, and in vitro diagnostics (IVD).

The Week of Quality complements the annual Virtual cGMP Training Marathon, as it provides another dimension of ensuring quality throughout the product life cycle. The Week of Quality focused on quality specification to address the unique challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic in the production of medicines, vaccines, and in vitro diagnostic products. The surge in demand and the need to increase production capacity has heightened the importance of maintaining stringent quality control measures. By emphasizing quality specifications, the Week of Quality aims to ensure that medical products released during and beyond the pandemic are safe, effective, and of high quality.

Throughout the Week of Quality, attendees have received valuable guidance on quality data requirements, Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Control (CMC) standards. Expert sessions delved into crucial topics, including patient-centric specifications, and manufacturing consistency, such as ensuring that product quality expectations are met.

Under the theme "**On the origin of specifications**" - the Week of Quality 2023 is dedicated to establishing rigorous standards that ensure the release of safe, effective, and high-quality vaccines,

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/11-06-2023-launching-the-inaugural-day-of-the-week-of-quality>.

NEW CLINICAL HANDBOOK LAUNCHED TO SUPPORT QUALITY ABORTION CARE



The World Health Organization (WHO) released a [new handbook](#) for health workers to help them deliver quality abortion services for women and girls. The publication provides detailed clinical advice to support implementation of WHO's consolidated guidance on abortion care, published in 2022.

Clinical services relating to abortion include not only the procedure itself but also the provision of information and counselling, pain management and post-abortion care, including contraception. In line with WHO's updated recommendations, the *Clinical practice handbook for quality abortion care* additionally provides expanded guidance on how health workers can support self-management approaches, and telemedicine, where this is available.

"Health workers have a critical role to play in delivering quality abortion care that respects women and girls' choices and meets their needs," said Dr Pascale Allotey, WHO's Director of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research and Head of the United Nations' Special Programme for Human Reproduction (HRP). "This guide aims to help health workers provide safe, timely and effective services for abortion while treating women and girls with dignity and respecting their rights."

Self-management is an option for providing medical abortion, which WHO recommends as a safe and effective method for ending a pregnancy. The medications used – mifepristone and misoprostol – are included in WHO's Essential Medicines List. With appropriate support, women can self-manage some or all stages of medical abortion, including in the comfort of their own homes.

Although this publication focuses primarily on the clinical aspects of abortion care, health workers also need to be supported so they can provide these services – without fear of judgement or recrimination. In early 2023, WHO released an [evidence brief](#), which aims to help policymakers address law and policy-related barriers that limit access to safe abortion. This is one of a range of tools that support practitioners and interested countries in implementing WHO's guidance, including [a pocket guide](#) and [a wall chart](#) on the medical abortion recommendations, and [a toolkit](#) on the competencies that health workers need to deliver quality abortion and family planning services.

The full text of the Handbook is available [here](#).

More on [Essential Medicines List](#).

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-06-2023-new-clinical-handbook-launched-to-support-quality-abortion-care>.

IOC AND WHO LAUNCH “LET’S MOVE” CAMPAIGN ON OLYMPIC DAY TO INSPIRE AND ENABLE THE WORLD TO MOVE FOR BETTER HEALTH



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced a new global initiative to inspire and enable the world to move more every day. Led by Olympians and created in collaboration with WHO, Let's Move will begin on Olympic Day, 23 June 2023, with an invitation to make time every day for movement for better health.

Research has found that one in four adults and over 80 per cent of young people do not meet the recommended minimum activity levels needed for optimum health (WHO, 2022).

Regular physical activity can help prevent or manage certain diseases, like heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some types of cancers. It also helps to prevent hypertension, and it reduces symptoms of depression and anxiety.

Being active also ensures healthy growth and development in young people and staying healthy in later life.

On 23 June 2023, the Olympic Movement will encourage and support people around the world to make this time in their daily lives to move in any way, anywhere. This includes a [digital invitation](#) from Olympians Allyson Felix, Pau Gasol, PV Sindhu, and Yusra Mardini – to name a few of the athletes involved – to schedule 30 minutes to move this day with them and to join the Let's Move Olympic Day digital workout from anywhere in the world, with the ambition of turning this into a daily habit.

IOC President Thomas Bach said, “On Olympic Day, we celebrate the Olympic Movement’s mission to make the world a better place through sport. When we do sport, it keeps our mind and body strong and healthy. When we do sport, it inspires us to always give it our best and it makes us dream, it spreads joy and it brings us together. This year, together with WHO, we are highlighting the positive impacts sport has on both physical and mental health.”

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, said, “*The Olympic Movement has a unique ability to harness the power of increased physical activity through sport for improving public health. The Let’s Move initiative, supported by WHO, combines the power of the Olympics and WHO’s advice on physical activity to help inspire and motivate people to move more for better health.*”

Let's Move on Olympic Day is the first event in a series of initiatives from IOC with the ambition of supporting and inspiring the world to move. It will directly contribute to the Olympism365 priority area of “Sport, Health and Active Communities”, focused on ensuring that more people, from more diverse backgrounds, can enjoy the mental and physical benefits of participating in sports and physical activity.

Let's Move encourages everyone to share how they are getting active on Olympic Day on social media using **#LetsMove #OlympicDay** and tagging **@Olympics**, and to therefore become a source of inspiration for others.

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-06-2023-ioc-and-who-launch-let-s-move-campaign-on-olympic-day-to-inspire-and-enable-the-world-to-move-for-better-health>.

FRONTLINE HEALTH FACILITIES FALTERING WITHOUT WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE AND ELECTRICITY – WHO, UNICEF NEW REPORT

Worldwide, millions of lives could be saved and billions in economic losses prevented through one simple, affordable intervention: water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in health care facilities.

Safe WASH services enable life-saving infection prevention and control practices, curb the spread of antimicrobial resistance, and help in delivering quality primary health care services to all. Yet, actions taken in countries are insufficient, according to a new report by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund).

Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, Waste and Electricity Services in Health Care Facilities: 2023 Global Progress Report highlights that an estimated 8 million people die annually in 137 low- and middle-income countries from poor-quality health care, resulting in US\$ 6 trillion in economic losses from poor health and premature mortality.

WASH, waste and electricity services are major contributors to high quality health care. Interventions such as improving availability of hand hygiene and drinking water stations, regular cleaning, functioning toilets and regular on-site water supply can greatly help in improving health services, staff performance and in respecting the dignity of health care facility users.

On average, basic WASH services cost only 60 US\$ cents per person each year in the least developed countries, or just 6% of current annual least developed government health spending. As the risk of future pandemics, climate change, and geopolitical insecurity and conflict increases, investment is more critical than ever. Yet, currently, just 12% of all countries have more than 75% of funds needed to reach targets for WASH in health care facilities.

Key insights

- ✓ National and sub-national actors are taking action to improve WASH in healthcare facilities, especially through monitoring, standard development and training.
- ✓ Measured against the global targets, progress is far off-track and efforts must be significantly scaled up and accelerated.
- ✓ The cost of providing WASH services is modest but there have not been significant increases in financial investments.
- ✓ Financing for WASH operation and maintenance costs are a small fraction of the costs that result from inaction.
- ✓ Improved cross-sectoral coordination and greater integration of WASH into health systems monitoring, financing and programming are needed.
- ✓ While data availability is improving, large data gaps remain, especially for environmental cleaning and sanitation, and higher levels of service, including services that are safe, sustainable and climate-resilient.

The report is available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240075085>.

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-06-2023-frontline-health-facilities-faltering-without-water--sanitation--hygiene-and-electricity---who--unicef-new-report>.

WHO PREQUALIFIES ADDITIONAL HPV TEST, EXPANDING OPTIONS AS COUNTRIES PURSUE CERVICAL CANCER ELIMINATION



WHO has added a fourth test to the list of prequalified tests for human papillomavirus (HPV). Although most HPV infections clear up on their own, some high-risk types could lead to cervical cancer. Testing for HPV infection is an integral part of cervical cancer screening.

WHO's prequalification (PQ) programme for in vitro diagnostics (IVDs) evaluates a range of tests, including those used for the detection of high-risk HPV genotypes in cervical cancer screening. The addition of another product to the PQ list expands the range of high-performance tests that are available to countries, especially in instances where governments, UN agencies, or partners rely on the WHO scheme to aid their procurement.

After WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, issued a Call to Action in 2018, the World Health Assembly passed a historic [resolution](#) calling for the first-ever elimination of a cancer. Since then, [WHO has been supporting countries through its flagship initiative](#) to eliminate cervical cancer.

The Global Strategy establishes targets for each of three strategic pillars. If met by 2030, the targets would put countries on the path towards cervical cancer elimination.

Even in countries where the HPV vaccine is introduced, screening programmes remain critical to identify and treat cervical pre-cancer and cancer, to reduce cervical cancer incidence and deaths.

THE GLOBAL STRATEGY ESTABLISHES TARGETS FOR EACH OF THREE STRATEGIC PILLARS:

- ✚ 90% of girls fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15;
- ✚ 70% of women screened using a high-performance test by the age of 35, and again by the age of 45;
- ✚ 90% of women with pre-cancer treated and 90% of women with invasive cancer managed.

If met by 2030, the targets would put countries on the path towards cervical cancer elimination.

The full [list of prequalified tests](#).

More on WHO [prequalification \(PQ\) programme for in vitro diagnostics \(IVDs\)](#).

More information available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/14-06-2023-who-prequalifies-additional-hpv-test-expanding-options-as-countries-pursue-cervical-cancer-elimination>.

WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ENDING, WHO/EUROPE LAUNCHES ITS TRANSITION PLAN FOR COVID-19



Although COVID-19 is no longer defined as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), it continues to take a significant toll on health globally. With the pandemic now in its fourth year, it is clear the virus is likely to stay with us for many years to come – if not forever. Responding to the current situation, and looking to the future, WHO/Europe is launching its transition plan for COVID-19.

“While the international public health emergency may have ended, the pandemic certainly has not,” explained Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, Regional Director for WHO/Europe. *“And as*

our Region seeks to emerge from this crisis, it is also faced with new health threats, at a time when our health systems face increasing workforce and other challenges.”

Across Europe and central Asia, more than 270 million people have been infected by COVID-19 and over 2.2 million people have died from the disease since January 2020. Although hospitalisations and deaths from COVID-19 have declined significantly, thanks to increased population immunity, the continued widespread circulation of the virus means that thousands of vulnerable people are still dying each week. Despite progress made, inequities across the WHO European Region persist, and vast knowledge gaps still need to be filled.

There is still also the very real risk of new variants emerging that could be more transmissible and/or more severe, which makes the need for continued resources into surveillance all the more critical.

It is estimated that at least 17 million people experienced Post COVID-19 Condition (long COVID) in the first two years of the pandemic and that number potentially doubled to over 34 million in 2022.

As the Region enters this new phase, countries will also have to learn to live with the virus alongside other respiratory diseases, and this means integrating COVID-19 control into broader prevention and control programmes.

As such, WHO/Europe will implement 13 strategic shifts in its approach to managing COVID-19 across the five core subsystems of WHO’s work in emergencies. To help achieve this, WHO/Europe’s new transition plan provides a framework to leverage innovations and lessons from COVID-19 and other recent emergencies into the development of the next regional five-year action plan to strengthen health emergency preparedness, response, and resilience in the WHO European Region, 2024–2029 – what WHO/Europe is calling Preparedness 2.0.

More information available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/12-06-2023-with-the-international-public-health-emergency-ending--who-europe-launches-its-transition-plan-for-covid-19>.

ABUSE OF OLDER PEOPLE

The abuse of older people, also known as elder abuse, is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person. This type of violence constitutes a violation of human rights and includes physical, sexual, psychological and emotional abuse; financial and material abuse; abandonment; neglect; and serious loss of dignity and respect.

Abuse of older people is an important public health problem. A 2017 review of 52 studies in 28 countries from diverse regions estimated that over the past year, 1 in 6 people (15.7%) aged 60 years and older were subjected to some form of abuse. Although rigorous data are limited, the review provides prevalence estimates of the proportion of older people affected by different types of abuse.

Systematic reviews and meta-analysis:

	Abuse of older people in community settings (1)	Abuse of older people in institutional settings (2)	
Type of abuse	Reported by older adults	Reported by older adults and their proxies	Reported by staff
Overall prevalence	15.7%	Not enough data	64.2% or 2 in 3 staff
Psychological abuse:	11.6%	33.4%	32.5%
Physical abuse:	2.6%	14.1%	9.3%
Financial abuse:	6.8%	13.8%	Not enough data
Neglect:	4.2%	11.6%	12.0%
Sexual abuse:	0.9%	1.9%	0.7%

Emerging evidence indicates that the prevalence of abuse of older people in both the community and in institutions have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. A US study, for instance, suggests that rates in the community may have increased by as much as 84%.

- [Abuse of older people in community settings](#)
- [Abuse of older people in institutional settings](#)

Globally, the number of cases of elder abuse is projected to increase as many countries have rapidly ageing populations. Even if the proportion of victims of abuse of older people remains constant, the global number of victims will increase rapidly due to population ageing, growing to some 320 million victims by 2050, as the global population of people aged 60 years and more increases to 2 billion by 2050.

On 15 June 2022, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, WHO and partners published [“Tackling abuse of older people: five priorities for the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing \(2021–2030\)”](#).

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/abuse-of-older-people>.

WHO AND THE GLOBAL FUND ANNOUNCE COMMITMENT FOR ENHANCED COLLABORATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund) signed a new and revised Strategic Framework for Collaboration, designed to build stronger and more resilient health systems and maximize collaboration and impact in support of country, regional and global responses to major communicable diseases.

The new five-year framework builds on the previous agreement signed in 2018. It aligns with the 2023-2028 Global Fund Strategy and the WHO General Programme of Work, which put communities at the centre of the health response and also address pandemic preparedness and challenges posed by climate change. The framework fits with broader collaboration platforms to accelerate support to countries to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

With WHO and the Global Fund's common mission and commitment to serve countries, the new Strategic Framework for Collaboration will further strengthen and extend collaboration.

“At a time when the world is beset by interlocking and intersecting crises, from conflict to climate change, the partnership between The Global Fund and WHO is more critical than ever,” said Peter Sands, Executive Director of The Global Fund. *“Crises shock global systems and roll back gains, with the world's most vulnerable people bearing the brunt. Organizations like ours are most effective when we collaborate closely with national governments and other trusted partners to strengthen local, community-driven systems for health.”*

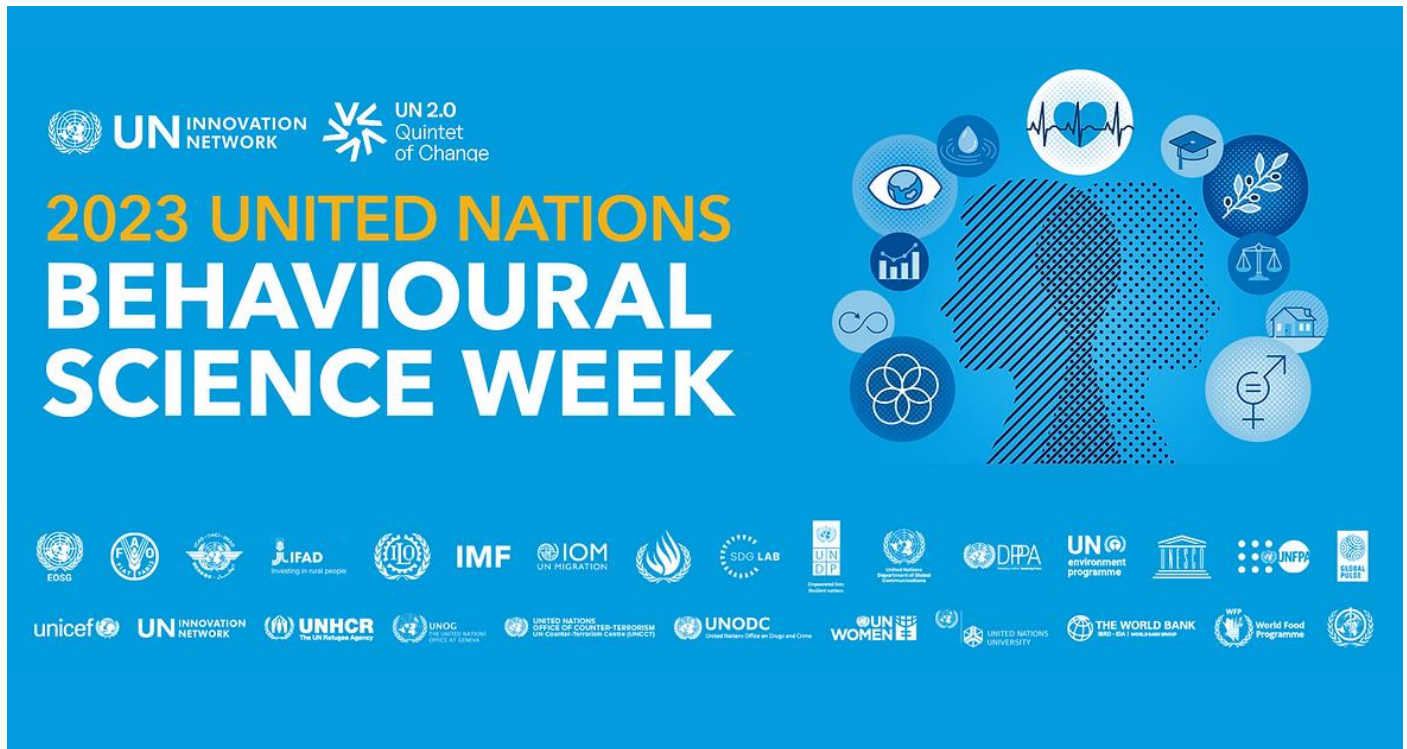
Continued collaboration over the past years has contributed to significant achievements at country level.

Through this new framework, WHO and The Global Fund will be leveraging their comparative strengths across 35 areas for collaboration divided into 4 categories:

- Health policies and normative guidance
- Advocacy and health governance
- Health products and innovations
- Technical support and capacity building

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/08-06-2023-who-and-the-global-fund-announce-commitment-for-enhanced-collaboration>.

2023 UNITED NATIONS BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE WEEK



Coordinated by the UN Behavioural Science Group, the 2023 UN Behavioral Science Week brings together 26 UN entities collaborating to host 17 webinars between 12-16 June 2023.

Sessions cover topics including climate, health, peace and security, women's empowerment, artificial intelligence, global support for behavioural science and embedding behavioural science into organizations.

UN BeSci Week events are free of charge and open to all and have in the past attracted attendance and attention from UN colleagues as well as representatives from governments, academia, civil society, NGOs and the private sector.

Behavioural science has become part of the Secretary-General's "Quintet of Change" which highlights key capabilities for a UN 2.0. Driven by the Secretary-General's "Common Agenda", the Quintet aims to accelerate the UN family's transformation through a focus on stronger capabilities for data, digital, innovation, strategic foresight and behavioral science.

The UN Behavioural Science Group brings together over 1000 UN colleagues from 60+ UN entities and 110+ countries, as well as several thousand non-UN observers. It is an initiative of the UN Innovation Network and supported by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

Recordings of sessions:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5dkWbaJeOg7qK4yYeNuQdLq-H4PLjyrQ>.

More information is available at: <https://www.unbesciweek2023.org/>.

WHO STORIES

“Don’t invent for, invent with!”: Designing digital solutions inclusive of people with vision impairment

Technology can be both a blessing and a curse for everybody, and people with vision impairment are no exception. Meet Hans Jørgen Wiberg, a passionate inventor with low vision who has created inclusive and accessible digital experiences. This includes an application that connects over 500 000 people who are blind or have low vision, globally, with sighted volunteers via a live video call.

Empowerment through Digital Health is a WHO/Europe flagship initiative, which complements the WHO Global Strategy on Digital Health, filling gaps in the digitalization frameworks in the Region that are holding up roll-out of innovative digital solutions. The “Regional digital health action plan for the WHO European Region 2023–2030” supports countries in leveraging and scaling up digital transformation of health systems.

The full story is available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/feature-stories/item/don-t-invent-for--invent-with!--designing-digital-solutions-inclusive-of-people-with-vision-impairment>.

Inclusion in the control and elimination of mpox: learning from trans and non-binary communities

“We need to be protected, because the world doesn’t often work for us.”

In the current mpox outbreak, outside of countries in Africa where the disease has long been endemic, the vast majority (but not all) of cases have been among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM). However, communities of trans and gender-diverse people have also been impacted. To fight mpox, CSOs that represent affected groups have mobilized to protect themselves and prevent onward transmission. Amanita’s work at ballroom events is just one example of the critical outreach being provided by CSOs who are engaging the most affected groups on protection from mpox, reaching them where they gather.

The full story is available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/feature-stories/item/inclusion-in-the-control-and-elimination-of-mpox--learning-from-trans-and-non-binary-communities>.

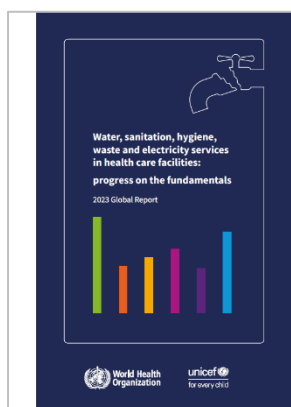
WHO PUBLICATIONS

Clinical practice handbook for quality abortion care

The World Health Organization (WHO) Clinical practice handbook for quality abortion is intended to facilitate the practical application of the clinical recommendations from WHO's 2022 Abortion care guideline. While legal, regulatory, policy and service-delivery contexts may vary from country to country, the recommendations and best practices described in both of these documents aim to enable evidence-based decision-making with respect to quality abortion care.

This handbook is oriented to health workers who already have the requisite skills and training necessary to provide quality abortion care and/or treat complications of unsafe abortion. It is neither a substitute for formal training, nor a training manual.

Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, Waste and Electricity Services in Health Care Facilities: 2023 Global Progress Report



Quality care requires WASH in healthcare institutions. Many countries are acting, but greater collaboration, attention, and investment are needed. This paper examines worldwide and national efforts to enhance health care facilities' WASH, cleaning, and waste management. It follows the 2020 progress report and summarizes country progress in implementing national actions ("practical steps") articulated in the 2019 World Health Assembly Resolution on WASH in health care facilities, drawing on data from a "country tracker," and provides insights on successful approaches and challenges from country experiences in improving and sustaining WASH.

The report targets national health authorities, WASH and IPC professionals in health care facilities, ministries of health, water, infrastructure, energy, and financing, global and national WASH and health partners, including donors and health funders, and actors working on climate-resilient and low-carbon health care facilities and health systems.

Tackling abuse of older people: five priorities for the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)

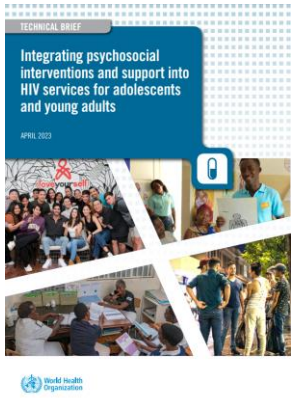


Globally 1 in 6 people aged 60 years and older experience abuse in the community every year. Rates in institutions are even higher. Yet, abuse of older people (also known as elder abuse) remains a low global priority. The UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021–2030 offers a unique ten-year opportunity for a step change in how abuse of older people is tackled.

This document outlines five priorities to prevent and respond to abuse of older people: combat ageism; generate more and better data on prevalence and on risk and protective factors; develop and scale up cost-effective solutions; make an investment case for addressing the issue; and raise funds to tackle the issue.

Integrating psychosocial interventions and support into HIV services for adolescents and young adults

Adolescence, defined as the period between 10 and 19 years of age, is a developmental stage during which many psychosocial and mental health challenges emerge. Adolescents and young adults living with HIV typically have additional mental health needs linked to their experiences of living with and managing a chronic illness, along with prevailing stigma and



discrimination. There is a well-established link between mental health and HIV outcomes, and HIV-associated mortality has declined at a slower pace in adolescents than in other populations.

Mental health promotion and prevention is thus a critical priority for this group. Psychological and clinical services for mental health are out of reach for many of the world's adolescents and youth, especially in the countries and settings most affected by HIV.

WHO EVENTS

Eliminating mpox: Placing affected populations at the heart of our response; 17 May-30 September 2023

On 17 May 2023, on the mark of one year of mpox response in the WHO European Region, WHO/Europe launched the campaign “Eliminating mpox: Placing affected populations at the heart of our response” to spur sustained action by communities, civil society organizations, health authorities and providers to control and eliminate mpox in the WHO European Region. The campaign will run until 30 September.

The campaign will:

- highlight what affected communities, health authorities, event organisers, and health workers can all do to help control mpox and eventually stamp it out;
- provide a platform for affected communities, including underserved populations, to talk about their mpox-related experiences, needs and hopes this year; and
- shine a light on the important contribution of organizations who represent gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men. These organisations have played and continue to play a crucial role in fighting mpox. Some of their work and successes to date are illustrated in a compendium – a collection of case studies – that WHO/Europe will launch as part of its mpox campaign.

The campaign is inspired by WHO/Europe’s latest mpox policy brief, ‘[Considerations for the control and elimination of mpox in the WHO European Region update 25 April 2023: the need for integrated national operational plans](#)’. Published in April 2023, the policy brief outlines the actions countries in the Region need to take to prepare for the upcoming season of mass gatherings, and to prevent the spread of mpox in the medium- to long-term.

WHO WEBINARS

Webinar series: Alcohol and Public Health (open for all)

As part of the training course on alcohol and public health in Europe that started in May 2023, WHO/Europe is launching a series of webinars for everyone with an interest in alcohol from a public health perspective.

The series is primarily aimed at graduate and postgraduate students, early career researchers, and young professionals in various fields such as public health, social sciences, medicine and economics, but anyone is welcome to join. You do not have to be a training course participant to watch the webinars.

All webinars are free to attend. Registration in advance is required and can be completed using the [Webinar Registration form](#).

The webinars are 60 minutes in length and are held in English. Recordings will be available on the WHO website after the webinar.

TOPICS & DATES

30 May 2023, 10:00–11:00 CEST

Alcohol – no ordinary commodity: regulatory approaches and challenges globally and specifically in Europe

15 June 2023, 10:00–11:00 CEST

Alcohol and the sustainable development goals: what are other relevant dimensions beyond health? Focus theme: harm to others

5 July 2023, 14:00–15:00 CEST

Alcohol and inequalities and inequities: evidence and policy options

12 July 2023, 14:00–15:00 CEST

Alcohol and cancer: an overlooked link and decades of evidence and implications for policies

25 July 2023, 10:00–11:00 CEST

Alcohol use disorders: early detection and treatment

4 September 2023, 10:00–11:00 CEST

Alcohol cultures and stigma: overview of key concepts

SOURCES

- <https://www.who.int/>
- <https://www.paho.org/en>
- https://commission.europa.eu/index_en
- <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/>
- <https://unfccc.int/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/unfcccint>
- <https://tbksp.org/en>

CONTRIBUTORS

- Faris Dizdar
- Lejla Beglerović
- Mirza Palo
- Erwin Cooreman