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WHO Public Health Report

Bosnia and Herzegovina

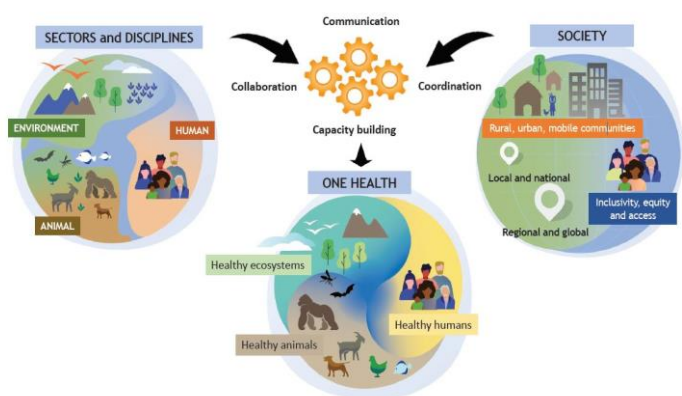
17 November 2023

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WHO URGES INVESTING IN “ONE HEALTH” ACTIONS FOR BETTER HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PLANET



The World Health Organization (WHO) calls on world leaders to increase political commitment and action to invest in the **“One Health” approach** to prevent and tackle common threats affecting the health and well-being of humans, animals, plants and environment together.

WHO has joined community organizations observing the eighth annual “One Health Day” campaign to attract global attention to the importance of the One Health

approach. One Health relies on understanding how human actions and policies could affect animal and environment health. The One Health Day provides everyone with an opportunity to educate themselves on the connections between the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment.

One Health is a proven approach to policy-making and cross-sectoral collaboration to prevent zoonotic and vector-borne diseases from emerging and re-emerging, ensuring food safety and maintaining sustainable food production; reducing antimicrobial-resistant infections; and addressing environmental issues to collectively improve human, animal and environmental health, among many other areas. It creates opportunities to mobilize the whole of society so that veterinarians, doctors, epidemiologists, public health practitioners, wildlife experts, community leaders, and people from different sectors can work together to tackle major health threats.

In addition to saving lives and promoting well-being, One Health actions offer huge economic benefits. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank (WB) estimate that One Health efforts could bring at least US\$ 37 billion per year back to the global community. And investing in One Health requires less than 10% of this amount. For example, a One Health approach to prevention by reducing deforestation would generate ancillary benefits of US\$ 4.3 billion from reduced carbon dioxide emissions.

“A One Health approach makes public health sense, economic sense and common sense,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. *“It is obvious that we can only protect and promote the health of humans by protecting and promoting the health of animals, and the planet on which all life depends. We welcome the increasing political consensus on One Health globally, and we are committed to supporting countries to translate the One Health concept into action that makes a difference.”*

[One Health Initiative.](#)

More on this at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/03-11-2023-who-urges-investing-in--one-health--actions-for-better-health-of-the-people-and-the-planet>.

INVESTING IN THE RADICAL REORIENTATION OF HEALTH SYSTEMS TOWARDS PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: THE BEST AND ONLY CHOICE TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE



The United Nations General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), held on 21 September 2023, resulted in a strategic dialogue co-led by Chile, WHO and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). The focus was on investing in primary health care (PHC) as a means to improve global health. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros emphasized the need for political and financial commitment to PHC. PAHO Director Dr Jarbas Barbosa highlighted that health systems based on PHC benefit everyone. Chilean President Gabriel Boric stressed the importance of viewing health as a human right and the need for a cultural shift towards a

preventive health approach.

PHC is seen as key to achieving UHC, potentially delivering 90% of essential health services and increasing life expectancy. Dr Bruce Aylward of WHO underscored the urgency of action on PHC, emphasizing governance, financing, and the right to health.

Despite the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, over half the world's population lacks full coverage of essential health services, and many face financial hardship due to health costs. The WHO-UNICEF operational framework for PHC offers a guide for countries to advance towards UHC.

Highlights in a nutshell

- ✓ PHC is the most cost-effective and equitable path to UHC as well as health security.
- ✓ Acceleration towards PHC is possible in practice and at scale through meticulous planning.
- ✓ Resources invested in PHC can tackle diseases and their determinants with a focus on people.
- ✓ Health and care workers are central to all investments in PHC.
- ✓ Attention is required to the quality of care provided to ensure trust in the system.
- ✓ Science, technology and digitalisation need to be embraced in the new era of PHC.
- ✓ Engagement with people is key to the success of PHC.

[WHO-UNICEF operational framework for primary health care.](#)

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/09-11-2023-investing-in-the-radical-reorientation-of-health-systems-towards-primary-health-care--the-best-and-only-choice-to-achieve-universal-health-coverage>.

[Primary health care.](#)

NEW WHO CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS TOBACCO INDUSTRY TACTICS TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES



The WHO launched the "**Stop the lies**" campaign to protect young people from the tobacco industry and prevent industry interference in health policy. The campaign is backed by the "Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2023," showing increased industry interference in health policies worldwide. It focuses on amplifying youth voices, exposing industry tactics, and raising public awareness.

Dr Ruediger Krech, Director Health Promotion, WHO-HQ, emphasized the need for governments to protect health policies from the tobacco industry, which employs various tactics to influence policy-making and spread misinformation. These tactics include using front groups, social media influencers, sponsored events, funding biased research, and supporting corporate initiatives. WHO is dedicated to countering these efforts and upholding health policies, aligning with the 183 Parties that committed to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Recognising the tobacco industry's relentless efforts to market its products to vulnerable groups, especially young people, WHO is committed to expose the industry's attempts to weaken health policies and call on policy makers to stand firm against tobacco industry influence. There are 183 Parties to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control that have committed to do this under the global health treaty.

SELECTED KEY FINDINGS:

Four governments made progress in protecting their policies from tobacco industry interference. **Botswana** included recommendations from Article 5.3 Guidelines in its Tobacco Control Act in 2021. **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso** and **Côte d'Ivoire** have developed draft decrees to protect health policies from industry interference, which are awaiting approval.

More countries deteriorated and were subjected to industry interference. Twenty-nine countries showed improvements and 43 countries registered a deterioration, while eight had unchanged Index scores.

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/tobacco-exposed-2023>.

[The Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index \(Global Tobacco Index\).](#)

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE LINK BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND CANCER – JOINT STATEMENT BY DR HANS KLUGE, WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE, AND DR ELISABETE WEIDERPASS, DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER, TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



IARC is the specialised cancer agency of WHO. Its main mission is to conduct research to enable effective cancer prevention. The IARC monographs programme identifies and evaluates the potential of agents to cause cancer.

In 1988 alcoholic beverages were identified as a Group 1 carcinogen, with sufficient evidence that they cause cancer in humans. The Continuous Update Project of the World Cancer Research Fund and the American Institute for Cancer

Research has also attributed the highest level of causal evidence to the association between the consumption of alcoholic beverages and the development of cancer.

Based on this convincing scientific evidence, the European Code against Cancer, coordinated by IARC, provides a clear alcohol-related cancer prevention recommendation to European citizens. It states, “If you drink alcohol of any type, limit your intake. Not drinking alcohol is better for cancer prevention.”

Cancers at the following sites have been causally linked to alcohol consumption: oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, colorectum, liver and breast.

Overall, alcohol causes a substantial burden of cancer. Globally, more than 740 000 (95% uncertainty interval: 558 500-951 200) cancer cases in 2020 were estimated to be caused by alcohol use. This represented 4.1% (95% uncertainty interval: 3.1-5.3%) of all new cancer cases. Almost a quarter of all cancers caused by alcohol consumption worldwide happened in Europe.

There is a dose–response relationship between alcohol use and incidence of cancer: the higher the amount of alcohol consumed, the higher the risk of developing cancer. Current scientific evidence does not support the existence of a threshold at which the carcinogenic effects of alcohol start to manifest in the human body.

There is also clear evidence of an increased risk of cancer from light or moderate alcohol drinking. As such, no safe amount of alcohol consumption for cancers can be established.

The full statement is available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/06-11-2023-joint-statement-by-who-europe-and-iarc-to-the-european-parliament---raising-awareness-of-the-link-between-alcohol-and-cancer>.

THE POWER OF HEALING: NEW WHO REPORT SHOWS HOW ARTS CAN HELP BEAT NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES



The arts have long been recognized for enriching our lives, but they can also play a powerful role in our health. In recent years, a growing body of research suggests that arts-based interventions can help tackle noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) – from cardiovascular diseases to cancer. A new report from WHO/Europe, which builds on the “Learning from the arts” conference held in Budapest, Hungary, suggests how arts can be integrated into health systems to supplement NCD treatment and prevention.

“As if the chemotherapy had disappeared for that period”

During the Budapest conference held in December 2022, Christopher Bailey, Arts and Health Lead at WHO, shared his experience of struggling with obesity and cancer. Christopher recalled how the stories he used to share in his personal blog and plays he wrote for theatre, helped him to get through his fight with cancer, recover from chemotherapy and rethink the way he perceives what being healthy is like.

“I’ve found that, when I was on stage working with actors, I had this profound sense of well-being,” said Christopher during his speech. “I could walk, I could hold things, I could speak eloquently. It was as if the chemotherapy had disappeared for that period of rehearsal and performance. When I got back home and would take off my shoes and my socks, they would be soaked in blood. I couldn’t speak anymore, it was only temporary, but at that moment of performance – I was well.”

Arts can supplement medicines

Increasing evidence demonstrates that arts can be used as an effective supplement to medical treatment and healing. They are non-invasive and low-risk.

WHO/Europe is exploring the potential of arts as complementary to the prevention and treatment of NCDs – which is the biggest health threat in the WHO European Region, a Region where cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, cancer and other NCDs account for 90% of all deaths.

“This report provides real world examples of different approaches, which the arts and health field can apply to NCD prevention, and generates momentum for more collaboration. I hope that our report will promote the value of arts and health projects across the whole Region and, most importantly, advance their real-world application, particularly at the policy level,” said Dr Kremlin Wickramasinghe, WHO/Europe Regional Adviser for Nutrition, Obesity and Physical Activity.

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/15-11-2023-the-power-of-healing--new-who-report-shows-how-arts-can-help-beat-noncommunicable-diseases>.

WHO UPDATES GUIDELINES ON TREATMENT FOR COVID-19



WHO has updated its guidelines for COVID-19 therapeutics, with revised recommendations for patients with non-severe COVID-19. This is the 13th update to these guidelines.

Updated risk rates for hospital admission in patients with non-severe COVID-19

The guidance includes updated risk rates for hospital admission in patients with non-severe COVID-19.

The current COVID-19 virus variants tend to cause less severe disease while immunity levels are higher due to vaccination, leading to lower risks of severe illness and death for most patients.

This update includes new baseline risk estimates for hospital admission in patients with non-severe COVID-19. The new 'moderate risk' category now includes people previously considered to be high risk including older people and/or those with chronic conditions, disabilities, and comorbidities of chronic disease. The updated risk estimates will assist healthcare professionals to identify individuals at high, moderate or low risk of hospital admission, and to tailor treatment according to WHO guidelines:

- **High:** People who are immunosuppressed remain at higher risk if they contract COVID-19, with an estimated hospitalization rate of 6%.
- **Moderate:** People over 65 years old, those with conditions such as obesity, diabetes and/or chronic conditions including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, kidney or liver disease, cancer, people with disabilities and those with comorbidities of chronic disease are at moderate risk, with an estimated hospitalization rate of 3%.
- **Low:** Those who are not in the high or moderate risk categories are at low risk of hospitalization (0.5%). Most people belong to this category.

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/10-11-2023-who-updates-guidelines-on-treatments-for-covid-19>.

HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERFACE NEWSLETTER: AUG-OCT 2023



Workforce development operational tool expert consultation

From 25-27 September 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) hosted the Workforce Development Operational Tool (WFD OT) Expert Consultation at WHO Headquarters. The objectives of this meeting were to review the draft WFD OT approach and technical materials and align them to other Tripartite workforce initiatives.

One Health experts from WHO, the World Organisation for Animal Health, FAO, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Unlimit Health reviewed the current progress of WFD OT and recommended next steps for the tool's development. These included refining the tool's materials and conducting more pilot workshops in different regions, the next of which is set to take place in Kazakhstan next year.

The Coordinated Investigation and Response OT is currently being developed by the Quadripartite to support countries to operationalise national joint outbreak investigation and response procedures. As part of this process, the [Response Preparedness workshop](#) was developed to focus specifically on national joint zoonotic disease outbreak response capacity.

For the Response Preparedness workshop, an [online course](#) (to be completed prior to the workshop) was developed to familiarise participants with the programme and provide a basis for discussion during the workshop. Due to popular demand and positive feedback from users, the course was released to the public on OpenWHO in October 2023.

The WHO Human-Animal Interface team and colleagues in Regional Offices are proud to present the first edition of the Human-Animal Interface Newsletter. You can find this, and all future editions, on [our website](#). Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and peers. We look forward to seeing you in the next edition.

[Tripartite Zoonoses Guide: Operational tools and approaches for zoonotic diseases.](#)

More on this at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/07-11-2023-human-animal-interface-newsletter--aug-oct-2023>.

ACCELERATING VACCINE DEVELOPMENT FOR GLOBAL HEALTH IMPACT - A WHO INITIATIVE TO PRIORITIZE KEY ENDEMIC PATHOGENS



In a significant stride towards facilitating and informing priorities in global vaccine development for endemic pathogens, WHO has commissioned 16 "Vaccine Value Profiles" (VVPs) to be published in a groundbreaking Supplement in the journal *Vaccine*.

This milestone is the result of collaboration with several pathogen and vaccine experts, led by the Product Development and Research (PDR) team in WHO's Immunization, Vaccines & Biologicals department, with the primary objective of advancing the development of vaccines for pathogens that pose a substantial public health and socio-economic burden, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The forthcoming Supplement is set to feature value profiles focused on 16 pathogens with vaccines in late-stage clinical development. These profiles, meticulously prepared by independent teams of global subject matter experts, compile state-of-the-art, publicly available data and information to establish the current understanding of anticipated vaccine development and implementation feasibility, use cases and potential public health impact of vaccines, once they receive licensure and are deployed for public health purposes.

Vaccine value profiles serve as comprehensive summaries of critical evidence, essential for guiding vaccine funding, research initiatives, and clinical and policy development strategies. These tools aim to serve as key resources for multiple stakeholders in the vaccine development and immunization community, to inform their investment, prioritization and strategic decision-making. The Vaccine Value Profiles are helping to inform GAVI's Vaccine Investment Strategy (VIS), facilitating evidence-based prioritization of vaccines as well as a regional and global initiative to establish priority endemic pathogens for development of new vaccines, as part of the Immunization Agenda 2030.

The Supplement's first volume features the Vaccine Value Profile for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), along with profiles for Group B *Streptococcus*, cytomegalovirus, *Shigella*, *Salmonella paratyphi* A, enterotoxigenic *E. coli*, norovirus and *Leishmania donovani*. Additionally, the issue will include commentary on neglected tropical diseases, underscoring the comprehensive scope of this monumental initiative. A second volume will follow later and will include vaccines such as against *Klebsiella pneumoniae* or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

"WHO extends its gratitude to all authors, the editorial team at the journal *Vaccine*, to Professor Mark Jit who served as special editor, and all contributors who have played an instrumental role in developing this critical tool kit. As the first volume of this Supplement is released, we will leverage learnings from these Vaccine Value Profiles to work in step with key stakeholders to accelerate vaccine development and ensure access, to fortify global health and improve equity, particularly in countries," says Dr Katherine O'Brien, Director of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals at WHO-HQ.

[Vaccine Value Profiles for Pathogens of Public Health Importance, Volume 1.](#)

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/10-11-2023-accelerating-vaccine-development-for-global-health-impact--a-who-initiative-to-prioritize-key-endemic-pathogens>.

WORLD DIABETES DAY 2023: EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH TUBERCULOSIS AND DIABETES



On World Diabetes Day, marked on November 14, WHO had highlighted the need for equitable access to essential care for people affected by diabetes and tuberculosis (TB). Equitable access to care is essential to ending TB, as highlighted in WHO's End TB Strategy and reinforced in the political declarations of the United Nations high-level meetings on the fight against TB in 2018 and 2023. According to the 2023 WHO Global TB Report, diabetes is one of the key determinants of TB, with just under 400 000 TB episodes attributable to diabetes worldwide. People with

diabetes are at higher risk of developing TB and are more likely to experience poor TB treatment outcomes, including death. This emphasises the need for ensuring access to comprehensive care for people affected by both diabetes and TB.

Providing comprehensive people-centred services for people with TB and diabetes often requires collaborative action across different health programmes. To support this collaboration and to facilitate integrated care for people with TB and comorbidities, including diabetes, WHO published the Framework for Collaborative Action on TB and Comorbidities in 2022. The framework includes actions to improve collaboration across respective programmes addressing TB and diabetes, and across sectors to deliver essential care for people with both conditions. WHO's Multisectoral Accountability Framework for TB reinforces the importance of collaboration across sectors to end the global TB epidemic. WHO is in the process of developing an operational handbook on TB and diabetes, to provide practical guidance on the implementation of current recommendations on TB and diabetes.

"Equitable access to essential care for people with TB and diabetes is something that we must strive for. Optimal management of both conditions has the potential to improve health outcomes, including TB treatment outcomes and health related quality of life", said Dr Tereza Kasaeva, Director of WHO's Global Tuberculosis Programme. "The political declaration of the UN high-level meeting on the fight against TB recognises the fundamental importance of addressing the drivers of the TB epidemic, including diabetes, underlining that equitable access to screening, prevention, treatment and co-management is essential."

Dr Bente Mikkelsen, Director of WHO's Department for Noncommunicable Diseases emphasised, *"As we mark World Diabetes Day, WHO has been calling for equitable access to essential care for people with diabetes. Given that people with diabetes are at higher risk of developing TB, this is especially important and we call on all programmes and partners to channel their efforts into making equitable access a reality for all."*

[2023 WHO Global TB Report.](#)

[Framework for Collaborative Action on TB and Comorbidities.](#)

[WHO's Multisectoral Accountability Framework.](#)

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-11-2023-world-diabetes-day-2023-equitable-access-to-care-for-people-with-tb-and-diabetes>.

WHO LAUNCHES NEW FIVE-YEAR ROADMAP TO PREVENT AND TREAT TUBERCULOSIS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS



The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the third edition of the Roadmap towards ending TB in children and adolescents, along with partners and civil society. The roadmap outlines an ambitious five-year plan with 10 key actions to improve the prevention, treatment, and care of TB in children and adolescents.

Children and adolescents continue to experience a disproportionate burden of TB. WHO's recently released Global Tuberculosis Report, highlights that an estimated 1.25 million children and young adolescents (aged 0-14 years) fell ill with TB in 2022, which is 12% of the global TB burden. Almost half were under 5 years of age. In the same year, more than 200 000 children and young adolescents died due to TB, representing 16% of all TB deaths. Among

deaths in HIV-negative children and young adolescents, 76% occurred in children under the age of 5 years. Almost all the children and young adolescents who died of TB did not have access to treatment.

"It is unacceptable that hundreds and thousands of children and adolescents worldwide still do not have access to life-saving TB prevention, treatment and care", said Dr Tereza Kasaeva, Director of WHO's Global TB Programme. *"The new Roadmap lays the groundwork for much needed actions over the next five years building on commitments made by world leaders at the 2023 UN High Level Meeting on TB, to close gaps in access to care and safeguard the rights of children and adolescents."*

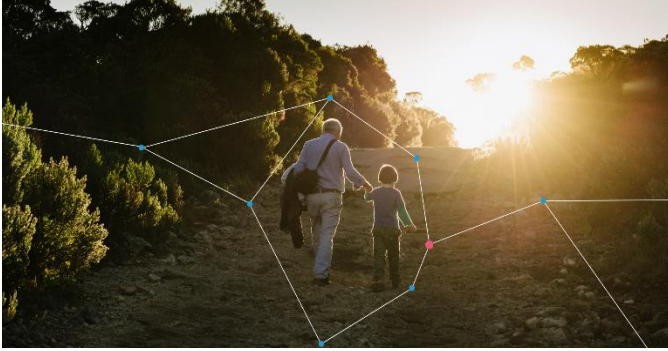
A stocktake of progress between 2018 and 2022 on targets set in the political declaration of the first United Nations high-level meeting on the fight against TB, highlights only 71% of the target to provide treatment to 3.5 million children and young adolescents was achieved (compared to 84% of the 40 million targets for people of all ages). The gap for diagnosis and treatment is even greater, with an achievement of only 19% of the target to provide treatment for 115 000 children and young adolescents with MDR/RR-TB. This means that 4 in 5 children and young adolescents with MDR/RR-TB in the past 5 years did not access treatment.

While the target for the provision of TB preventive treatment (TPT) to 6 million people of all ages living with HIV was exceeded by 5 million, data are not available on the number of children and young adolescents that received TPT. About 1 in 2 TB contacts aged under 5 had access to TPT (2.2 million out of the 4 million target). In household contacts aged 5 years and above, only 10% of the 20 million target was achieved. These figures show that we need to accelerate our efforts to prevent and manage TB in children and adolescents.

[Roadmap towards ending TB in children and adolescents, along with partners and civil society.](#)

More information is available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/14-11-2023-who-launches-new-5-year-roadmap-to-prevent-and-treat-tb-in-children-and-adolescents>.

LANCET COUNTDOWN REPORT CALLS FOR CLIMATE-DRIVEN HEALTH ACTION



Today, the world faces a daunting reality as the climate crisis takes center stage, amplifying global emergencies and threatening to unravel decades of progress in public health. The 8th annual report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change has shed light on the alarming convergence of factors that jeopardize the well-being of individuals, public health, and healthcare systems on a global scale.

The climate crisis manifests itself through various pathways, including the exacerbation of food insecurity, the proliferation of climate-sensitive diseases, and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. These combined factors are placing unprecedented strains on the world's health systems, calling for immediate and comprehensive action.

"WHO is very pleased to contribute to this critical report, highlighting trends, and playing a key role in shaping urgent responses to address the pressing challenges posed by the health and climate crisis," said Dr Maria Neira, WHO Director for Environment, Climate Change and Health. *"The path to a sustainable future starts with taking bold and urgent steps, transitioning to renewable energy, reducing emissions across all sectors, and building adaptation and resilience, to name just a few. The upcoming COP28 will be a watershed moment to address health, with the potential for ambitious outcomes that will ensure a healthier and more resilient world."*

The Lancet Countdown Report reveals that the health impacts of climate change are surging worldwide, causing a devastating toll on lives and livelihoods. Adults over 65 years of age and infants under one year old, who are particularly vulnerable to extreme heat, are now experiencing twice as many heatwave days per year than they would have in 1986-2005. The increasing destructiveness of extreme weather events jeopardizes water security and food production, putting millions of people at risk of malnutrition. The alarming statistics of more frequent heatwaves and droughts were responsible for 127 million more people experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity in 122 countries in 2021, compared the annual numbers seen between 1981 and 2010.

As the 28th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change approaches next month in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, WHO invites all nations to bring health into the centre of international climate action. We must work together to ensure a prosperous future for all, with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of present and future generations.

[Lancet Countdown Report.](#)

More on this at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/15-11-2023-lancet-countdown-report-calls-for-climate-driven-health-action>.

WHO UNVEILS FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT AND LOW CARBON HEALTH SYSTEMS

Responding to rapidly changing climate, WHO has unveiled a new Operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health systems. Released in the lead up to the upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate (COP-28), this comprehensive Framework is designed to enhance the resilience of health systems while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions to help safeguard the health of communities worldwide.

“Around the world, health systems are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, but they also contribute to it,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. *“We therefore have a dual responsibility to build health systems that can withstand climate-related shocks, while at the same time reducing their carbon footprint. This framework gives countries a roadmap for doing just that.”*

As global temperatures rise and extreme weather events become increasingly common, the need for climate resilient health systems has never been more critical. WHO's Framework provides a visionary path to addressing this challenge, with a core mission to protect and improve the health of populations in the face of an unstable and changing climate.

Moreover, it emphasizes the optimisation of resource use and the implementation of strategies to curtail greenhouse gas emissions while continuing to prioritise climate resilience. This Framework presents an opportunity for the health sector to lead by example by reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions – which are now responsible for almost 5% of the global total – while continuing to enhance quality of care.

The Framework presents different pathways for health systems to strengthen their climate resilience and decarbonize depending on their overall performance, levels of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change and health capacity. This includes systems in low-income countries that need to increase energy access and health service provision to provide universal health coverage. Building climate resilient and low carbon health systems contributes to WHO's commitment to providing safe, quality healthcare services while helping combat the root causes of climate change.

The key objectives of the WHO Framework are:

- **to guide health sector professionals** in addressing climate-related health risks through collaboration;
- **to strengthen health system functions** for climate resilience and low carbon health approaches;
- **to support development of specific interventions** for climate risk reduction and emissions reduction; and
- **to define roles and responsibilities** for health decision-makers in climate resilience.

[Operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health systems.](#)

More information at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/09-11-2023-who-unveils-framework-for-climate-resilient-and-low-carbon-health-systems>.

HEALTH TOPICS

Climate change

The global climate is changing. This affects human health, well-being and life on earth. In the near future it will lead to an amplification of current health problems, as well as new risks and pressures for the environment and the social and economic determinants of health.

https://www.who.int/europe/health-topics/climate-change#tab=tab_1

Digital health

Digital health is the field of knowledge and practice associated with the development and use of digital technologies to improve health. Digital health expands the concept of eHealth to include digital consumers, with a wider range of smart devices and connected equipment. The following areas are commonly understood as being part of, or related to, digital health: artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain, health data, health information systems, the infodemic, the Internet of Things, interoperability and telemedicine.

https://www.who.int/europe/health-topics/digital-health#tab=tab_1

Mental health

Mental health should be seen as a valued source of human capital or well-being in society. It contributes to individual and population health, happiness and welfare, enables social interaction, cohesion and security, and feeds national output and labour force productivity. We need good mental health to succeed in all areas of life.

Yet, individuals with mental ill-health are often shunned and denied access to care, with services for promoting and protecting mental health and preventing ill-health often starved of resources. It is vital to not only address the needs of people with defined mental disorders but also to protect and promote the mental health of all people, and recognize the intrinsic value of positive mental health.

https://www.who.int/europe/health-topics/mental-health#tab=tab_1

Vaccines and immunization

Immunization is one of the most cost-effective ways to save lives and promote good health and well-being throughout the life course. Every year, vaccines save millions of lives, and millions more people are protected from disease and disability. By preventing many serious early-childhood infectious diseases, such as polio and measles, immunization helps children grow into healthy adults. Other vaccines given early in life help prevent liver and cervical cancer many years later, and vaccination of older adults protects them from influenza, COVID-19 and other serious diseases.

The WHO European Region has made great progress in recent decades on many of these fronts, but there are still gaps in vaccination coverage that put especially the most vulnerable at risk. Access to vaccines, including against human papillomavirus and SARS-CoV2, is also not equitable within and among countries.

https://www.who.int/europe/health-topics/vaccines-and-immunization#tab=tab_1

WHO EMERGENCIES

Health emergencies list

The health emergencies list details the disease outbreaks, disasters and humanitarian crises where WHO plays an essential role in supporting countries to respond to and recover from emergencies with public health consequences.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/situations>

[UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO Regional Directors call for immediate action to halt attacks on health care in Gaza](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Earthquakes in Afghanistan](#)

[Syria](#)

WHO CAMPAIGNS

World Anti-microbial Resistance Awareness Week, 18-24 November 2023

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial agents. As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents become ineffective and infections become difficult or impossible to treat, increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.

[The World AMR Awareness Week \(WAAW\)](#) is a global campaign to raise awareness and understanding of AMR and promote best practices among One Health stakeholders to reduce the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections. WAAW is celebrated from 18-24 November every year.

The theme for WAAW 2023 will remain "**Preventing antimicrobial resistance together**", as in 2022. AMR is a threat to humans, animals, plants and the environment. It affects us all.

That is why this year's theme calls for cross-sectoral collaboration to preserve the effectiveness of antimicrobials. To effectively reduce AMR, all sectors must use antimicrobials prudently and appropriately, take preventive measures to decrease the incidence of infections and follow good practices in disposal of antimicrobial contaminated waste.

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-amr-awareness-week/2023>

First International Forum on Implementing Care for Healthy Ageing – Webinar; 20-22 November 2023 10:00-18:00 KST (1:30-10:00 CET)

The webinar will be held in English, with simultaneous interpretation available in Korean. The venue is Ambassador Seoul – A Pullman Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea

<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/11/20/default-calendar/the-first-international-forum-on-implementing-care-for-healthy-ageing>

[Registration](#)

[Introductory note](#)

Program

[Session 1](#)

[Session 2](#)

[Presentation materials](#)

[Click Here to watch the live stream](#)

HIV drug resistance webinar: Report on the Global Action Plan on HIV Drug Resistance 2017–2021 and perspectives for the future; 20 November 2023 13:00-14:35

HIV drug resistance webinar: Report on the Global Action Plan on HIV Drug Resistance 2017-2021 and a future integrated Global Action Plan to prevent, monitor, and respond to drug-resistant HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/11/20/default-calendar/webinar-global-action-plan-on-hiv-drug-resistance-and-future-integrated-gap-on-hiv-hepatitis-and-stis>

[Register here](#)

Webinar: Climate change across the life course: from evidence to action; 21 November 2023 13:00-14:00

A growing body of epidemiological evidence links climate change and climate events to adverse maternal, newborn and child health outcomes, ranging from gestational hypertension and pre-eclampsia to preterm births, to development of respiratory diseases and negative effects on learning and family function.

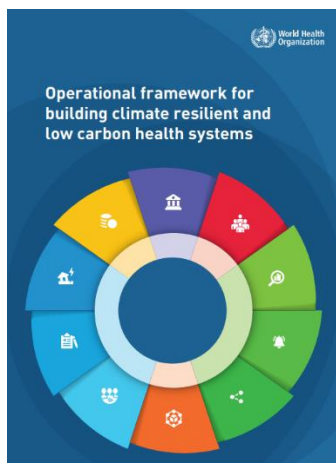
Launch of a joint statement by WHO-UNICEF-UNFPA and advocacy brief by PMNCH and partners.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/11/21/default-calendar/webinar-climate-change-across-the-life-course-evidence-to-action>

[Register here](#)

WHO PUBLICATIONS

Operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health systems

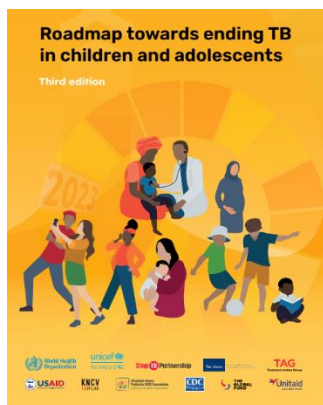


This document presents the World Health Organization's Operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health systems. The framework's goal is to increase the climate resilience of health systems to protect and improve the health of communities in an unstable and changing climate, while optimizing the use of resources and implementing strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It aims to contribute to the design of transformative health systems that can provide safe and quality care in a changing climate.

Implementation of the framework's ten components would help health organizations, authorities, and programmes to be better able to anticipate, prevent, prepare for, and manage climate-related health risks and therefore decrease the burden of associated climate-sensitive health outcomes. Implementing low carbon health practices would contribute to climate change mitigation while also improving health outcomes. Achieving these aims is an important contribution to universal health coverage (UHC), global health security, and specific targets within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The document is a useful resource for decision-makers in health systems, including public health agencies, and other specialised institutions, and for decision-makers in health-determining sectors.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240081888>

Roadmap towards ending TB in children and adolescents, 3rd edition

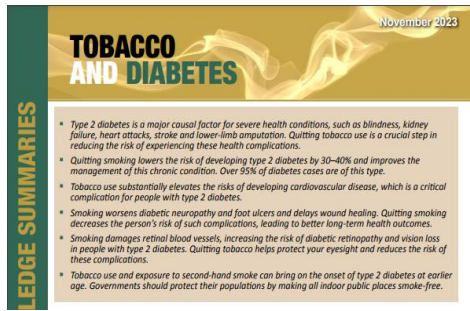


The *Roadmap towards ending TB among children and adolescents* builds on the 2013 and 2018 versions. The 2023 version recognizes the progress made over the past five years and outlines priorities and key actions designed to accelerate progress towards the targets elaborated during the 2023 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the fight against TB. Implementation of these key actions at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels is expected to find and treat more children and adolescents with TB disease or TB infection, to prevent TB, to improve treatment outcomes and prevent TB-associated disability. The 2023 Roadmap retains the strong focus on TB in children, while also emphasizing the importance of addressing TB among adolescents, and for the first time, among pregnant and post-partum women.

This edition is aligned with the 2022 WHO consolidated guidelines and operational handbook on the management of TB in children and adolescents. Its development has benefitted from significant technical inputs by the core team of the Child and Adolescent TB Working Group and from additional inputs from the working group members and country representatives during a stakeholder consultation. WHO will continue to collaborate with TB survivors, community, civil society, technical and financial partners to advocate and facilitate implementation of the key actions.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240084254>

Tobacco and diabetes



This document is the seventh in a series of Tobacco Knowledge Summaries. This document will be prepared with the objective to summarize the association between tobacco use and diabetes, as well as describe the effectiveness of interventions to reduce tobacco use and tobacco-related complications. This is also intended as an advocacy tool to widely include health care professionals in the fight for tobacco control and prevention of tobacco-related adverse health effects.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240084179>

The 2023 Global Report of the Lancet Countdown



The latest Lancet Countdown report underscores the imperative for a health-centred response in a world facing irreversible harms.

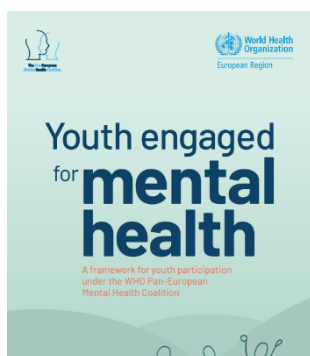
Climate inaction is costing lives and livelihoods today, with new global projections revealing the grave and mounting threat to health of further delayed action on climate change. But bold climate action could offer a lifeline for health.

This year's report launches just weeks before the COP28 which has a health focus for the first time. The findings underscore the opportunity of a lifetime that COP could help deliver – through commitments and action to accelerate a just transition. Without profound and swift mitigation to tackle the root causes of climate change and to support adaptation efforts, the health of humanity is at grave risk.

The 2023 Report tracks the relationship between health and climate change across five key domains and 47 indicators, providing the most up-to-date assessment of the links between health and climate change.

<https://www.lancetcountdown.org/2023-report/>

Youth engaged for mental health



The framework was developed to answer a strong and consistent request from WHO Pan-European Coalition members that young people be actively engaged in activities undertaken by WHO which impact young people's mental health and well-being across the European Region, whether it be policy or guidance development, research or programming. Young Coalition members-initiated development of the framework to ensure that the active participation of young people was carried out in a way that was consistent, meaningful and, most importantly, underpinned by what young people want and need to feel safe and empowered to engage. Successful implementation of this framework requires action and

commitment from everyone involved – the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Coalition members and young people themselves.

<https://www.who.int/europe/publications/m/item/youth-engaged-for-mental-health>

WHO FACTSHEET

[Diabetes](#)

WHO STORY

Testimonies from frontline workers and community members caring for vulnerable refugees in Armenia

While media attention may have diminished, the health needs of more than 100 000 refugees who entered Armenia from Karabakh have not.

WHO, through its Country Office in Armenia and Regional Office for Europe, has been meeting with refugees to assess their health needs. WHO has also met frontline workers operating 24/7 to care for them. Heroes from the community have been tireless in ensuring refugees have access to health care, while some refugees have joined WHO in helping address the health needs of the most vulnerable.

<https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/photo-stories/item/testimonies-from-frontline-workers-and-community-members-caring-for-vulnerable-refugees-in-armenia>

WHO PODCASTS

Episode #107 – How is climate change affecting your health?

Climate change is affecting your health every day. What are the future scenarios for health? How can you cope and protect your health? Dr Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum explains in Science in 5

<https://www.who.int/podcasts/episode/science-in-5/episode--107---how-is-climate-change-affecting-your-health>

Health in Europe – Art Meets Health: Unveiling the Healing Power of Creativity in Combatting NCDs

We explore the transformative synergy of art and health, and how art can positively help tackle NCDs – from cardiovascular diseases to cancer. Join us as we discuss the healing potential of art interventions with experts from WHO/Europe's Special Initiative on NCDs and Innovation and Behavioural and Cultural insights units.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1109867/13978718-art-meets-health-unveiling-the-healing-power-of-creativity-in-combatting-ncds>

WHO COURSE

FAO, WHO and WOAHA launch new online course on joint response to zoonotic disease outbreaks

Zoonotic diseases can have far-reaching impacts on the health of people, animals, environments, economies and health systems globally. A multidisciplinary and multisectoral collaboration, through a One Health approach is required to effectively prepare for, detect, assess, and respond to emerging and endemic zoonotic diseases. However, during outbreaks of zoonosis, countries usually have limited time to organise the response.

<https://www.who.int/news/item/31-10-2023-fao--who--and-woaha-launch-new-online-course-on-joint-response-to-zoonotic-disease-outbreaks>

Register here: [Response Preparedness for Zoonotic Disease Outbreaks Using a One-Health Approach OpenWHO](#)

WHO EVENTS

World Conference for Sexual Health, 2-5 November 2023

Sexual health and well-being is fundamental to a person's health throughout their life. It is not just about the absence of illness, but it is also about a positive, respectful approach to sexuality and relationships.

From 2-5 November 2023 at the 26th Congress of the World Association for Sexual Health (WAS), experts from the World Health Organization and the UN's Special Programme on Human Reproduction ([HRP](#)) will present research and advancements in sexual health within the theme of Bridging the gaps: Sexual health, rights, justice and pleasure for all.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/11/02/default-calendar/who-at-the-world-conference-for-sexual-health>

Youth and alcohol: do new trends demand new solutions? 7 November 2023

Alcohol consumption among young people (15–19-year-olds) carries significant health risks and no benefits. Drinking among young people may appear to have little changed over the past two decades globally. However, this trend masks substantial changes at the country and regional levels. For example, alcohol consumption among youth appears to be decreasing in North America and Europe. Still, there is greater variability in trends in WHO South-East Asia, Africa and the Western Pacific regions, including areas of increasing youth consumption.

This webinar explores trends related to youth alcohol consumption according to the latest available data. Different hypotheses for these patterns will be tested to understand their root causes in various settings, including educational environments, online (digital) settings and the home environment. Different population-level policy interventions to

influence alogogenic environments will also be explored, building upon the dialogue initiated in the second edition of the Less Alcohol Webinar series on reducing exposure to alogogenic environments.

Joining this event requires prior registration. Visit the registration link [here](#). If you have questions regarding how to attend, don't hesitate to contact the Less Alcohol Unit for more information: lessalcohol@who.int.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/11/07/default-calendar/youth-and-alcohol--do-new-trends-demand-new-solutions>

COP28 Health Pavilion; 30 Nov-12 Dec 2023, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

WHO in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust and partners will host the Health Pavilion at the COP28 UN Climate Conference, taking place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023.

The COP28 Health Pavilion will convene the global health community and key stakeholders across various sectors to ensure health and equity are placed at the centre of climate negotiations. It will offer a rich two-week programme of events showcasing evidence, initiatives and solutions to maximize the health benefits of tackling climate change across regions, sectors and communities.

The [call for side events at the COP28 Health Pavilion](#) is open until 15 September 2023.

WHO VIDEOS

Latest videos:

[What the children and parents of Gaza and Israel want and need: peace and security.](#)

Check out our official video channel on YouTube for the latest video news on our work from around the globe:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/who/playlists>.

SOURCES

- <https://www.who.int/>
- <https://www.un.org/en/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/whoregionalofficeforeurope>
- <https://www.thelancet.com/>
- <https://globaltobaccoindex.org/report-summary>

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