



PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

World Health Organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina

24 January 2025

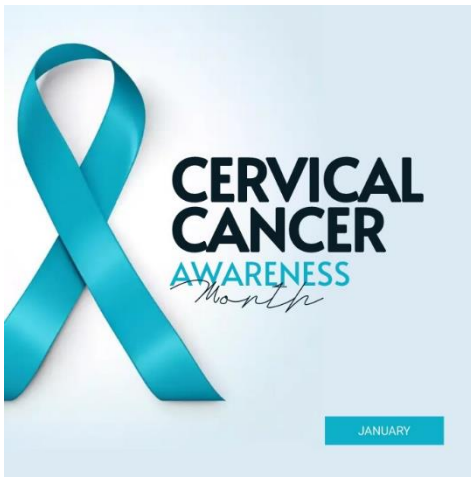




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JANUARY IS CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



In January, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched Cervical Cancer Awareness Month to raise awareness about cervical cancer and the importance of vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV), the primary cause of the disease. The campaign aims to highlight the significance of increasing access to HPV vaccines, regular screening, and state-of-the-art treatment for cervical cancer in its early stages. The shared objective is to dramatically reduce the occurrence of cervical cancer by 2030 and eliminate it as a public health problem by 2050.

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women worldwide, with an estimated 660 000 new cases and about 350 000 deaths in 2022. Effective primary prevention through HPV vaccination and secondary prevention via regular screening for and treatment of precancerous lesions can prevent most cervical cancer cases. WHO recommends that women undergo cervical cancer screening every five years starting at age 30, with more frequent screenings every three years starting at age 25 for women living with HIV. The global strategy encourages a minimum of two lifetime screenings with a high-performance HPV test by age 35 and again by age 45.

To achieve the goal of eliminating cervical cancer, WHO emphasizes the need for comprehensive prevention and control strategies. This includes increasing HPV vaccination coverage, ensuring regular screenings, and providing appropriate treatment for detected precancerous lesions and invasive cancers. By implementing these measures, it is possible to significantly reduce the incidence and mortality rates associated with cervical cancer, ultimately making it a disease of the past.

Read more info here: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cervical-cancer>

WHO RELEASES 2024 COUNTRY IMPACT REPORT



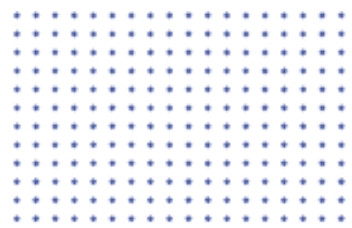
WHO has released the Country Impact Report for the past year, showcasing collaborative health initiatives across its 53 European Member States. This comprehensive document highlights various success stories, demonstrating the positive outcomes of partnerships between WHO and individual countries. Each narrative within the report reflects the unique health challenges addressed through tailored interventions, underscoring the Organization's commitment to enhancing public health across the region.

A notable example from Bosnia and Herzegovina features the establishment of a new laboratory for pathogen testing at the Institute of Public Health of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This development signifies a significant advancement in the country's capacity to detect and respond to infectious diseases, thereby strengthening its public health infrastructure. The laboratory's enhanced capabilities are expected to improve disease surveillance and contribute to more effective health interventions.

The Country Impact Report serves as an inspiration for other nations, illustrating how strategic collaborations and investments in health infrastructure can lead to substantial improvements in public health outcomes. By sharing these success stories, WHO aims to encourage the adoption of similar initiatives tailored to the specific needs of different countries, fostering a more resilient and responsive health system across the European region.

More info: <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2024-10819-50591-76499>

REPORT ON 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR EHP



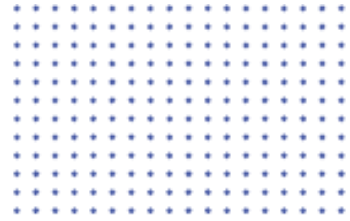
As 2024 came to a close, the Environment and Health Process (EHP) reflected on a year of impactful initiatives and strengthened collaborations. Key milestones included the *Bonn Dialogue on Environment and Health* in January, which emphasized the importance of behavioural and cultural insights in addressing environmental health challenges. This dialogue laid the groundwork for a policy brief that empowered Member States and stakeholders across the European Region. Another significant moment was the 12th meeting of the Environmental Health Task Force (EHTF) Bureau in April, where 70 participants from 39 Member States and six organizations strategized on implementing the Budapest Declaration.

The EHP also made significant advancements in promoting mobility and sustainability. The October *Bonn Dialogue on Active and Safe Mobility* convened nearly 200 stakeholders, emphasizing sustainable transport options such as walking and cycling. This event introduced a film that promoted active lifestyles, part of the "Let's Get Moving!" campaign. Additionally, the first-ever *Pan-European Master Plan on Walking* was endorsed, marking a major step towards healthier, more sustainable urban environments. Collaborative efforts expanded further with the establishment of new partnerships on poison centres and school environment risk reduction, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity and innovation.

Looking ahead to 2025, the EHP built on the momentum of 2024. The 13th EHTF Bureau meeting finalized preparations for the next EHTF meeting, with countries invited to host future gatherings. The successes of 2024, driven by the dedication of EHTF members, provided a strong foundation for achieving the shared vision of a healthier population, a thriving planet, and a sustainable future. The EHP Secretariat extended its gratitude to all contributors and expressed optimism for continued progress in the new year.



STATEMENT ON UNITED STATES INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM WHO



WHO comments on United States announcement of intent to withdraw



Geneva, 21 January 2025 | The World Health Organization regrets the announcement that the United States of America intends to withdraw from the Organization.

WHO plays a crucial role in protecting the health and security of the world's people, including Americans, by addressing the root causes of disease, building stronger health systems, and detecting, preventing and responding to health emergencies, including disease outbreaks, often in dangerous places where others cannot go.

The United States was a founding member of WHO in 1948 and has participated in shaping and governing WHO's work ever since, alongside 193 other Member States, including through its active participation in the World Health Assembly and Executive Board. For over seven decades, WHO and the United States of America have saved countless lives and protected Americans and all people from health threats. Together, we ended smallpox, and together we have brought polio to the brink of eradication. American institutions have contributed to and benefited from membership in WHO.

With the participation of the United States and other Member States, WHO has over the past seven years implemented the largest set of reforms in its history, to transform our accountability, cost-effectiveness, and impact in countries. This work continues.



DEVELOPING SECOND EUROPEAN PROGRAMME OF WORK



The WHO European Region is navigating an era of unprecedented change and upheaval, marked by complex, interconnected crises, the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence, ageing populations,

rising levels of loneliness, and a growing erosion of trust in science and authorities. In response to these challenges, WHO and Member States are embarking on an ambitious journey to define health priorities and actions for the next five years in the form of the Second European Programme of Work 2026–2030 (EPW2).

The new five-year action plan will be developed in close collaboration with WHO European Member States and key partners. Its overarching goal is to unite all 53 Member States in creating a healthier, fairer, and more sustainable future for the people of the European Region.

Dr Hans H. Kluge, Regional Director, said: *"In a rapidly changing world, advancing health is a smart investment – key to strengthening individual well-being, enabling economic prosperity, building community resilience, shoring up societal stability, and nurturing solidarity across nations. Through EPW2, we will engage with everyone who has a stake in health, to shape a strategy that fosters innovation, builds trust in health systems, and ensures health priorities reflect the needs of the 1 billion people in our region."*

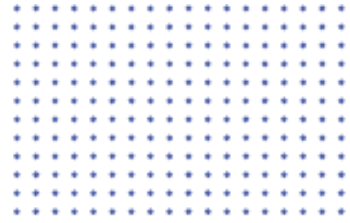
WHO/Europe is hosting a series of five online hearings to inform EPW2 that will harness diverse perspectives and proposals on how to address the megatrends impacting health and health equity across the WHO European Region up to and beyond 2030, and guide our collective response:

- 22 January; 9:00-12:00 CET: Confronting the silent epidemic: tackling noncommunicable diseases and advancing action on mental health
- 30 January; 9:00-12:00 CET: Ageing is living: working for a lifetime of health and well-being
- 21 February; 9:00-12:00 CET: Health systems of the future: Harnessing technology and innovation in health, for everyone, everywhere
- 28 February; 10:00-13:00 CET: Climate change and health: Shaping a resilient future
- 7 March; 10:00-13:00 CET: Health security: Building a safe and secure European Region

To sign up for the hearings, please register [here](#).

More info: <https://tinyurl.com/3fk6tsyt>

TRENDS OF ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION, INCLUDING HMPV IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE



In January 2025, WHO reported an expected seasonal rise in acute respiratory infections across the Northern Hemisphere. This increase encompassed common respiratory pathogens such as seasonal influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and human metapneumovirus (hMPV). Notably, in China, surveillance data up to late December 2024 indicated a rise in detections of these viruses, particularly in northern provinces.

Despite the uptick, Chinese health authorities confirmed that the healthcare system remained stable, with no emergency responses initiated.

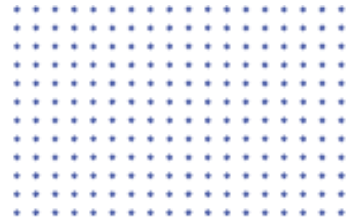
WHO's assessment concluded that the observed increases in acute respiratory infections were typical for the winter season in temperate climates. The co-circulation of multiple respiratory pathogens during this period was anticipated and did not present unusual patterns. However, WHO acknowledged that such simultaneous outbreaks could impose additional burdens on healthcare facilities.

In response, WHO continued to monitor respiratory illnesses globally through collaborative surveillance systems. The organization emphasized the importance of routine surveillance for acute respiratory infections and the need for timely data sharing among countries. This approach aimed to ensure preparedness and effective response strategies during peak seasons of respiratory pathogen circulation.

For more information: www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2025-DON550



STATEMENT FROM WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE ON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES FROM GAZA



WHO welcomes the release of traumatized hostages taken from Israel, after enduring 470 days of brutal captivity in Gaza.

While the released hostages and their families can now begin the long and painful road to recovery, the ordeal will continue for the dozens more who remain in Gaza. WHO reiterates that

all hostages must be released promptly and with dignity, and for all sides to show restraint as the delicate and long-awaited ceasefire takes hold.

WHO is acutely aware that the hostages face complex mental and physical health needs and may take years to recover. The families of hostages also require sensitive mental health care.

WHO is reassured that Israel – a WHO/Europe Member State – possesses the resources and relevant expertise to respond to the medical, mental, and nutritional challenges to restore the health of the hostages, and the well-being of their families.

We reaffirm our readiness to support affected communities on all sides.

In Israel, we are prepared to support the health system in any way requested, adding to the mental health support already rendered.

In Gaza, WHO and partners are scaling up operations to deliver critical medical supplies and resources, addressing urgent health needs and contributing to recovery efforts including the process of rebuilding the shattered health system.

Our hope is for all hostages taken from Israel to be reunited with their families and for the immediate and long-term safety, health, and well-being of all those affected by this war, wherever they may be.



WHO EMERGENCIES



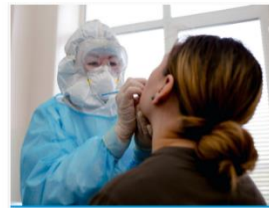
WHO flash appeal: Syria emergency



Conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory



Ukraine emergency



COVID 19

[/ Syria Emergency Response](#) / [Conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory](#) / [Ukraine Emergency](#) / [COVID-19](#) /

EVENTS AND COURSES

- **Launch of the WHO guideline on the use of lower-sodium salt substitutes a new guideline on the use of lower-sodium salt substitutes (LSSS)**
Date: Monday, 27 January
Time: 14:00–15:15 (CET)
Register here: <https://bit.ly/40K8eC8>
More info: <https://bit.ly/3WuuEVw>
- **WHO/Europe and European Observatory launch Health Systems in Action insights for 17 non-EU countries**
Date: Tuesday, 28 January
Place: Belgrade, Serbia
More info: <https://bit.ly/3PJ71oi>
- **Understanding and addressing digital determinants of health**
Date: Wednesday, 29 January
Register here: <https://bit.ly/3E8pVSU>
- **EPW 2 Hearing Sessions:**
30 January 2025: “Ageing is living: working for a lifetime of health and well-being”
21 February 2025: “Health systems of the future: harnessing technology and innovation in health, for everyone, everywhere”
28 February 2025: “Climate change and health: shaping a resilient future”
7 March 2025: “Health security and emergency preparedness: building a safe and secure European Region”
Register here: <https://bit.ly/4avGu7k>



PUBLICATIONS



Strategic Partners' Initiative for Data and Digital Health: progress report and working group proposals

This report summarizes the work undertaken by the members of the Strategic Partners' Initiative for Data and Digital Health (SPI-DDH) during the period since its inauguration on 13 June 2024 to and including the end of 2024. The report provides high-level detail of the discussion and considerations made by the four SPI-DDH working groups and proposed outputs of each group to be completed during 2025.

Available here: <https://bit.ly/4hrsw8P>



Risk communication, community engagement and infodemic management school: workshop and simulation exercise

This report details the risk communication, community engagement, and infodemic management (RCCE-IM) School held in Istanbul, Türkiye – a key initiative by the WHO Regional Office for Europe aimed at strengthening public health emergency preparedness through advanced RCCE-IM.

Addressing challenges unearthed during coronavirus disease pandemic and other emergencies, the RCCE-IM School represents a

progressive leap in building sustainable capacities in this technical area. The inaugural session convened a diverse group of Regional and global partners and participants to exchange knowledge, test innovative tools, such as the RCCE-IM Plan Creator, and foster multi-hazard planning based on good practices.

Additionally, the full-scale simulation exercise provided practical exposure to emergency plan activation and complex response scenarios. Insights gained from this groundbreaking programme are set to enhance unified regional RCCE-IM interventions against emergent health risks.

Download here: <https://bit.ly/3PNJfHJ>

MULTIMEDIA

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[YouTube](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [X/Twitter](#)

SOURCES

- <https://www.who.int/europe/home?v=welcome>
- <https://www.who.int/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/whoregionalofficeforeurope>
- <https://eurohealthobservatory.who.int/>

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The Public Health Report is a publication that provides the latest updates and insights on the World Health Organization's activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European region. It covers diverse health topics, emerging trends, and pressing issues, offering valuable information for professionals as well as the public. The report highlights WHO's initiatives, achievements, and collaborative efforts to address health challenges, improve public health, and promote well-being across the region.