

Our reform story

The first decade of the 21st century brought unprecedented challenges and opportunities for people's health. Old health problems persist and new ones emerge. The global public health landscape is crowded and poorly coordinated. This demands renewed leadership in global health from WHO.

Who we are

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the United Nations specialized agency for health, made up of 194 Member States and supported by more than 7000 staff based in 156 countries, territories and areas, six regional offices and a headquarters in Geneva.

What we do

Our primary role is to direct and coordinate international health. We:

- provide leadership on matters critical to health
- shape the health research agenda
- define norms and standards for health
- articulate policy options for health
- provide technical support and build capacity
- monitor health trends.

Our vision

Health is a fundamental human right; everyone has the right to the highest possible level of health.

Our leadership priorities give focus and direction to our work



Advancing universal health coverage



Implementing the International Health Regulations (2005)



Increasing access to essential, high-quality and affordable medical products



Achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals



Addressing the challenge of noncommunicable diseases and mental health



Reducing health inequities by addressing the social, economic and environmental determinants of health



Our progress

PRIORITY SETTING

Clearly defined priorities addressing needs at country level

66% of country offices allocating at least 80% of budget to their 10 priority programme areas



Most country offices allocating at least 80% of budget to their 10 priority programme areas

FINANCING

Predictable, flexible and aligned financing of agreed priorities

70% of programme budget funded at the beginning of the biennium 2014-15, compared with 52% for 2010-11



Predictability and flexibility of resources and better alignment with priorities

2011

2015

We enable change

2017

ACCOUNTABILITY

Every member of the Organization is answerable for his/her actions and decisions, and accepts responsibility for them

Processes in place that facilitate accountability: corporate risk register, whistleblowing policy, management dashboards, and harmonization of compliance functions



All operational audits concluded as "satisfactory" or "partially satisfactory"

EMERGENCIES

The world is better prepared to respond to health outbreaks and emergencies

An emergency platform, a contingency fund and a global health emergency workforce are being established



WHO is prepared to respond comprehensively and rapidly to disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, in a directed, coordinated and scalable manner

We are all part of the change

Reform of our work in EMERGENCIES

A new stream of reform was established to ensure WHO's capacity to prepare for and respond to outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences. It cuts across the three areas of reform and they will all be closely linked and aligned.

PROGRAMMATIC REFORM

WHO improves health outcomes through more systematic and transparent definition of priorities and better alignment of these priorities with resources – both technical and financial.

GOVERNANCE REFORM

WHO achieves greater coherence among players in global health by improving internal governance practices, leveraging convening power, encouraging uptake of technical norms and standards, and engaging more effectively with non-State actors.

MANAGERIAL REFORM

WHO enables the delivery of health outcomes by more effective and efficient management of human resources, accountability, evaluation, information and communications.

What success looks like

- A world in which gaps in health outcomes are narrowed
- A world in which people have access to the medical products and services that they need
- A world in which the sick and vulnerable are protected from impoverishment
- A world in which countries have quality health systems that meet the expectations and needs of their people
- A world which puts health and well-being at the centre of sustainable development
- A world which achieves internationally-agreed health targets and goals:
 - reduced child and maternal deaths
 - fewer people dying from HIV, TB and malaria
 - '25 by 25' – 25% fewer premature deaths from noncommunicable diseases by 2025
- A world in which populations are protected from disease outbreaks and harm from natural disasters
- A world without polio