## Overview

National plans, strategies or policies play an essential role in defining a country’s vision, priorities, budgetary decisions and course of action for improving and maintaining the health of its people. Effective governance of Healthy Ageing requires the development and implementation of evidence-based policies and plans that involve all stakeholders, and pay explicit attention to equity and the inherent dignity and human rights of older people. National plans on ageing and health (either stand-alone or integrated within a broader national plan on ageing) set forth priorities and a timeframe on what should be achieved, how it will be achieved, and how it will be known that it has been achieved, thus enabling monitoring of implementation and accountability to be on track. WHO is working with countries to assess the extent to which existing national plans on ageing and health are aligned to WHO Healthy Ageing principles and strategic areas.

### Progress in Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of countries reporting a national plan on ageing and health</th>
<th>Globally&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>AFRO</th>
<th>AMRO</th>
<th>EMRO&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>EURO</th>
<th>SEARO</th>
<th>WPRO</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Progress in Pictures

![Number of countries per region with a national plan on ageing & health](image)

<sup>4</sup> This percentage reflects the total number of countries with a national plan on ageing and health out of the 194 Member States of the World Health Organization. In collaboration with WHO Regional Offices, data from 140 of the 194 Member States were collected by March 2018. Given that data is missing from 54 countries, the global percentage of countries with a national focal point on ageing and health may be even higher.

<sup>5</sup> These percentages reflect the total number of countries with a national plan or policy on ageing and health out of the total number of Member States in the region. These percentages do not include information on countries that do not have a national plan but do have a sub-national plan or strategy. This was the case for one country in AMRO (Canada) and one country in WPRO (Papua New Guinea).

<sup>6</sup> The responses for Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Tunisia were gathered from the 2017 Regional survey on Active, Healthy Ageing and Old age care, and WHO Age-friendly initiatives, Age-friendly cities and Age-friendly primary health care.