Mid-term progress - Indicator 8
National policy on long-term care

Overview

Long-term-care systems enable older people who experience a significant ongoing loss in capacity, or who are at risk of such a loss, to receive the care and support of others consistent with their basic rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity. This includes care provided at home, in communities, or when needed, in institutions. Data represents countries with a national plan to develop or maintain a system of long-term care (either stand-alone or integrated within an ageing and health plan). These plans should enable the development of a sustainable and high quality long-term-care system with the needed infrastructure, workforce, and support mechanisms. WHO is working with countries to assess the extent to which existing national policies on long-term care are aligned to WHO Healthy Ageing principles and strategic areas.

Progress in Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of countries reporting a national policy on long-term care</th>
<th>Globally(^{21})</th>
<th>Region(^{22})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRO</td>
<td>AMRO</td>
<td>EMRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of countries reporting a national policy on long-term care</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Progress in Pictures

Number of countries with a national policy on long-term care

### Footnotes

\(^{21}\) This percentage reflects the total number of countries with a national policy on long-term care out of the 194 Member States of the World Health Organization. In collaboration with WHO Regional Offices data from 139 of the 194 Member States was collected by March 2018. Given that data is missing from 55 countries, the global percentage of countries with a national policy on long-term care may be even higher.

\(^{22}\) These percentages reflect the total number of countries with a national policy on long-term care out of the total number of Member States in the region. These percentages do not include information on countries that don’t have a national policy on long-term care but do have sub-national approaches to long-term care. This was the case for two countries in AMRO (Canada and Jamaica), one country in EURO (Switzerland), and one country in WPRO (Marshall Islands).