

Developing a framework to assess human, social, economic and planetary well-being for health

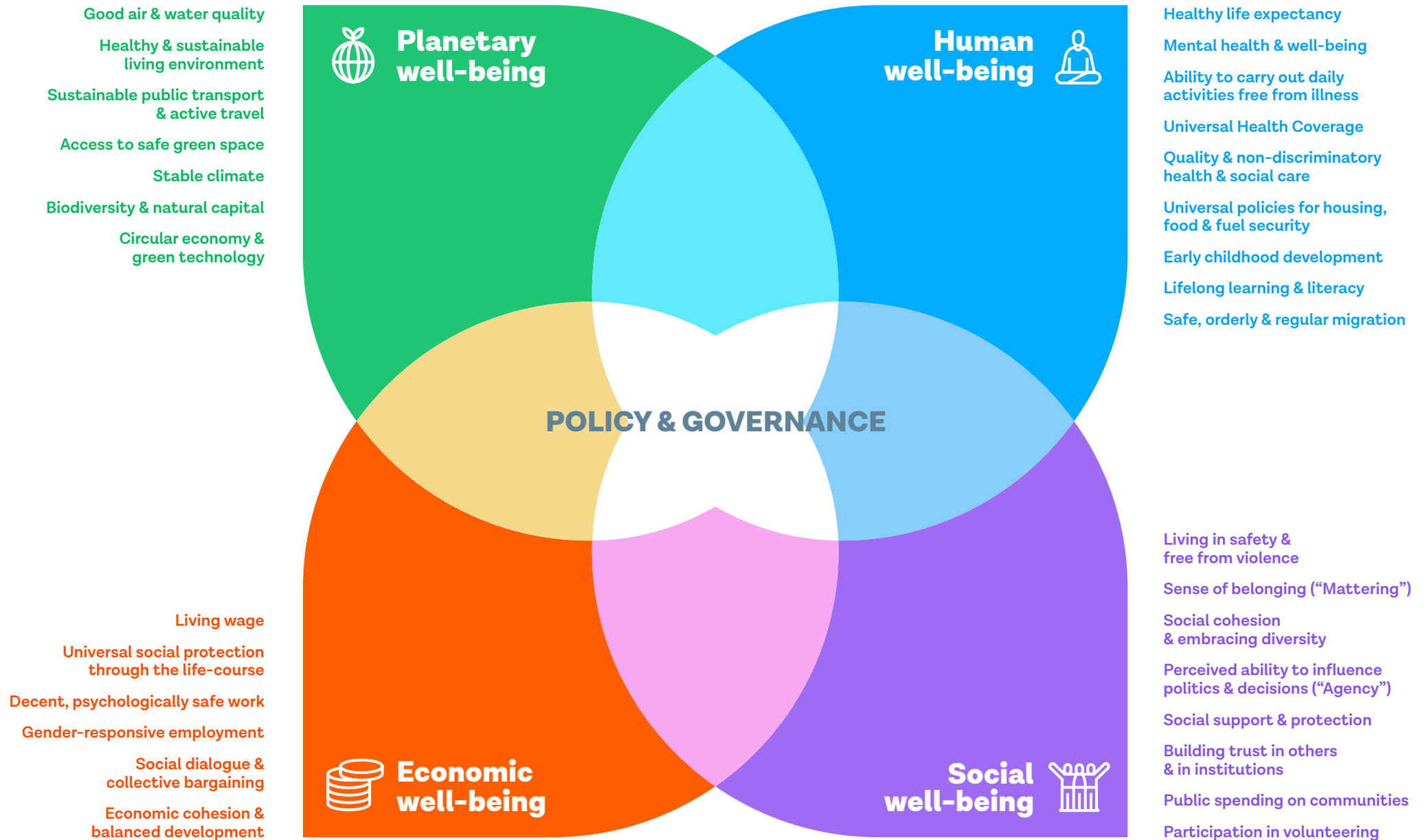
 World Health
Organization
European Region



Protecting and promoting health and well-being capitals

The equity impact of these domains should be considered across age, gender, income, ethnicity, level of educational attainment, and geographic distribution.

Source: WHO analysis, building on OECD well-being framework.





Human well-being

Why is human well-being important?



Universal Health Coverage



Ability to carry out daily activities free from illness



Lifelong learning & literacy



Universal policies for housing, food & fuel security

Human well-being is important because people's health and their subjective well-being are closely linked; both are drivers of economic prosperity, social mobility and cohesion.

Examples of how human well-being is measured at individual and collective levels

Policy area*	Example indicator	
Mental health & well-being	WHO 5-point mental health scale	Individual
Ability to carry out daily activities free from illness	Presence of a long-standing illness or health problem (chronic morbidity)	
Universal Health Coverage	Proportion of people with self-declared unmet need for health care services due to financial barriers, waiting times or travelling distance	Collective
Early childhood development	Participation rate in early childhood education & care	

***Standard well-being indicator frameworks include self-reported health and life expectancy. This leaves opportunity to expand health policy areas and indicators in these frameworks.**



Social well-being

Why is social well-being important?



**Social cohesion
& embracing diversity**



**Perceived ability to influence
politics & decisions**



Trust in others & in institutions



**Living in safety
& free from violence**

Trust, participation and social cohesion make significant contributions to mental and physical health and well-being, and are vital to building fair, peaceful, and resilient societies.

Examples of how social well-being is measured at individual and collective levels

Policy area	Example indicator	
Living in safety & free from violence	Feelings of calm, peace and harmony*	Individual
Trust in others & in institutions	Trust in political & legal systems	
Social cohesion & embracing diversity	Percentage of people who believe they can rely on friends in case of need	Collective
Participation in volunteering	Volunteer rate	

***Non-standard well-being indicator taken from the World Happiness Report (Sustainable Development Solutions Network).**



Planetary well-being

Why is planetary well-being important?



Good air & water quality



Access to safe green space



Sustainable public transport & active travel



Biodiversity & natural capital

Planetary well-being is a key determinant of physical, mental and social well-being for current and future generations. It is also essential for economic prosperity. Environmental damage has significant negative impacts on well-being and prosperity.

Examples of how planetary well-being is measured at individual and collective levels

Policy area*	Example indicator	
Good air & water quality	Urban exposure to air pollution	Individual
Circular economy & green technology	Recycling rate, waste generation & food waste	
Biodiversity & natural capital	Achieving net zero by 2050; no net biodiversity loss	Collective
Access to safe green space	Proportion of the population reporting difficulties in accessing green space	

***The measurement of planetary well-being is rapidly evolving as new approaches are being used to capture and process environmental data.**



Economic well-being

Why is economic well-being important?



Living wage



Universal social protection through the life-course



Gender-responsive employment



Decent, psychologically safe work

Economic well-being impacts physical and mental health and well-being and is essential to ensure that people have a sustainable income, as well as assets, so that they can prosper and participate in society.

Examples of how economic well-being is measured at individual and collective levels

Policy area	Example indicator	
Living wage	Income inequality (Gini coefficient)	Individual
Gender responsive employment	Gender gap in employment-to-population ratio	
Decent, psychologically safe work	Public expenditure on active labour market policies (% GDP)*	Collective
Universal social protection through the life-course	Coverage, benefit incidence & adequacy of social assistance programmes	

***Identified by the WHO Regional Office for Europe's Health Equity Policy Tool. Currently not integrated in standard well-being indicator frameworks.**

This document was produced as a companion product for the WHO European Regional High-level Forum on health in the well-being economy, held in Copenhagen on 1–2 March 2023. It sets out early proposals for a framework to assess four essential well-being capitals, building on a rapid review of international well-being indicator frameworks. It provides a collection of existing and envisioned well-being indicators – for illustrative purposes only. This will support the development of a policy tool for decision-makers to guide well-being investment, prioritization and progress monitoring.

#Health4Wellbeing



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The WHO European Well-being Economy Initiative is led by the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, based in Venice, Italy

For further information, please refer to WHO Regional Office for Europe's Health in the well-being economy. Background paper: working together to achieve healthy, fairer, prosperous societies across the WHO European Region. All potential indicators are illustrative only; rationale and references available on request.

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whovenice@who.int