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Data

Accurate and timely data are an essential resource for Member States to achieve the SDG targets and goals for UHC, health emergencies and healthier populations. WHO is the steward and custodian for monitoring the health-related SDGs. Data are needed to measure performance, improve programme decisions and increase accountability. WHO's Constitution requests Member States to submit annual reports on health status and actions taken to improve health.¹ The Secretariat has a critical role to support Member States in the effective collection, analysis, reporting and use of data. WHO will focus on its areas of comparative advantage: setting standards for data collection; ensuring access to and comparability of health data for global monitoring; promoting a harmonized technical package for improved monitoring and evaluation; helping countries to strengthen data collection systems; promoting data transparency; facilitating the use of data in decision-making; and promoting the use of data for global, regional and national accountability. In order to promote better evidence-based decision-making in Member States, the Secretariat will undertake the following actions.

- *Set data collection standards and provide tools and support for diverse data collection platforms that are needed by Member States.* This action will include maintaining the WHO Family of International Classifications that include the International Classification of Diseases and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. It will also include establishing best practice standards for measurement through different data systems of each critical health outcome, determinants and health system attribute, including birth and death registration, household surveys, administrative health service

¹ WHO Constitution Articles 61–65 (<http://apps.who.int/gb/bd/PDF/bd48/basic-documents-48th-edition-en.pdf#page=7>).

data systems, disease registries, surveillance systems and anthropometric data. Standard setting will encompass assessing and utilizing the potential of innovative modalities for data capture, analysis, reporting and use, such as satellite imagery, environmental sensors, mobile and cloud technology and social media.

- *Support Member States in strengthening national statistical capacity at all levels to ensure good-quality, accessible, timely, reliable, and disaggregated health data, including through, where appropriate, the Health Data Collaborative.* WHO will work with partners to provide effective and coordinated technical and financial support for national priorities in health information systems, linked to national health sector strategic plans and review processes. This will involve disease reporting, including birth and death registration, chronic disease registries, systems to provide data on hospital and clinic utilization, electronic medical records, reimbursement claims data, household surveys, and profiles of antibiotic resistance. Technical assistance will also be provided on budget, expenditure and licensing information systems that provide details on health system financial resources and human resources. Data systems will be strengthened with an aim to provide actionable information at the local level as well as regional and national aggregates. The WHO Secretariat will work with Member States to identify key data gaps to monitor UHC and the health SDGs and increase efficiencies. These data gaps will be used to draw attention to priorities for additional investments in data, aligned with the national monitoring and evaluation framework.
- *Support Member States to improve capacity for the systematic and transparent translation of evidence to inform policy and national decision-making.* Member States will be supported in establishing sound evidence platforms derived from global research, local data and specific contextual knowledge. In applying these platforms, policy-makers and other stakeholders will be supported in deliberative dialogue to enable policy development and performance improvement; this will include support for economic and policy analysis.
- *Promote open reporting of health data by Member States and the Secretariat and support Member States' creation of transparent data warehouses for these data.* Detailed data, with supporting documentation, and open reporting will take on enhanced importance given the focus in the SDGs on health equity. Open data is a global public good. WHO will work with country stakeholders and partners to promote and support the development of nationally owned health observatories. The aim is to improve open access to health data, statistics and analyses at country level in order to support and monitor progress on national commitments, including health-related SDGs, universal health coverage and other national and subnational priorities.
- *Promote strategic disaggregation of data through collection, analysis and reporting to better inform programmes based on the following: sex, income, disability, ethnicity and age group categories in surveys, routine data, and other data sources.* Identifying health inequalities and their drivers is essential for achieving health equity and improving programme delivery. Health information systems are the foundation for monitoring health inequality.
- *Work with relevant institutions, including academic institutions and networks, non-State actors and think tanks in the collection, analysis and strategic use of health information.* Examples of this type of initiative include various ongoing and proposed "Countdown" efforts, the Global Burden of Disease Collaboration, led by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, and WHO collaborating centres.

- *Ensure itself of the availability of data and metrics to support strategic management and agile learning for the Organization.* In this way, the WHO Secretariat will be able to measure its own performance in accordance with GPW 13 (including trends in UHC, health emergencies and healthier populations) and ensure timely production of World Health Statistics, and curation of critical data in cooperation with Member States.
- *Catalyse investments by donor agencies, development banks and national governments in filling critical data gaps.* The Secretariat will identify on a country-by-country basis, key gaps in the collection of data needed to monitor GPW 13's strategic priorities and the health-related SDGs. Reporting on data gaps will be used to draw attention to priorities for new data collection investments.

Research and innovation

Research and innovation are vital to WHO as a knowledge-based organization. WHO hosts special research programmes, coordinates multicountry research, and supports research capacity building. It also benefits from over 700 WHO collaborating centres. Critical research functions have been addressed already and integrated into relevant strategic priorities: research and development in support of access to and prequalification of medicines in the UHC section, and coordinating research in emergencies in the health emergencies section. Research is also a foundation of strategic shifts: diplomacy and advocacy, and normative guidance and agreements must be based on the best science and evidence. WHO will draw upon a wide range of disciplines from the social sciences to implementation research. At the same time, WHO will use its comparative advantage in respect of identifying needs and translating knowledge in order to facilitate research best conducted in research institutions.

WHO will also help develop and scale up innovative solutions. Innovation can accelerate attainment of the SDGs and the goals in GPW 13. The Organization will use various approaches – science and technology, and social, business or financial innovation. Innovative ideas can come from anywhere – any geographical location any sector – and may include “reverse” innovation and South–South cooperation. A key innovation challenge lies in scaling up – and scaling up in a sustainable manner. Some innovations, especially those which are global in scope, require transformative improvements applicable to diverse international contexts and users. Other innovations, such as those that are tailored to local settings, are more likely to persist when innovators who are close to a problem leverage their insights to develop locally adapted solutions. Innovation calls for risk-taking and the ability to tolerate and mitigate failures.

WHO's most effective role, acting in its area of comparative advantage, is to address innovation barriers as a facilitator, a “champion of champions” of innovation. WHO will focus on three roles in this regard.

Shaping innovation. WHO will focus on linking with research and innovation funders and across the three levels of the Organization to leverage its viewpoint as well as country insights. WHO can partner in shaping calls for innovations or challenges matched to specific, identified health-related needs and gaps, and aligned with the WHO strategic priorities. By ensuring buy-in from the end-user at the earliest stage, WHO can use its networks to maximize both opportunities for replication and scalability. WHO will, for example, foster and cooperate with initiatives such as the WHO/DNDi Global Antibiotic R&D Partnership, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the G20 Global Collaboration Hub on research and development on antimicrobial resistance. The Organization will also help

to coordinate partners as it does with the R&D Blueprint. It will also promote South–South cooperation in research and innovation.

Scaling up innovation. Based on its close relationships with governments, WHO can take a unique role in catalysing the scaling up and sustainability of effective, health innovations. By linking innovations, innovators and innovation funders with governments, WHO can catalyse the sustainable scaling up of evidence-based innovations within health systems. This will sometimes also require constructive engagement with the private sector, since government and private sector, often together, are the principal actors that scale up innovation. As innovations are tested and transition to scale, WHO can also help to synthesize evidence in order to inform guideline development.

Amplifying innovation. WHO is well positioned to communicate successes and lessons learned, which will be key to the further scaling up and sustainability of innovations.