

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
Sixty-fifth Session
Khartoum, Sudan, 15–18 October 2018**

EM/RC65/1

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

1. Programme Budget 2020–2021 (Agenda item 2, document EM/RC65/2)

WHO's thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13) requires the Organization to put countries at the centre of its work to ensure maximum impact. This document explains what that approach entails for strategic programme budget development. It introduces the planning framework and outlines the process for prioritization, providing an overview of the regional priorities that will be considered in developing the programme budget based on discussions with Member States.

2. Annual Report of the Regional Director 2017, including progress reports (Agenda item 3, document EM/RC65/3)

The Annual Report of the Regional Director covers 2017 and early 2018. Under this agenda item, progress reports on the following subjects will also be outlined and provided as information documents:

- Eradication of poliomyelitis (Agenda item 3(b), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.1)
- Scaling up family practice: progressing towards universal health coverage (Agenda item 3(c), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.2)
- Improving access to assistive technology (Agenda item 3(d), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.3)
- Strategic framework on strengthening health laboratory services 2016–2020 (Agenda item 3(e), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.4)
- Implementation of the regional strategic framework for blood safety and availability 2016–2025 (Agenda item 3(f), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.5)
- Regional strategy and action plan for tobacco control reflecting the commitments of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (Agenda item 3(g), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.6)
- Progress of States Parties in implementing the International Health Regulations (2005), including Report of the Regional Assessment Commission (Agenda item 3(h), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.7)
- Health issues facing populations affected by disasters and emergencies (Agenda item 3(i), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.8)

3. Advancing universal health coverage (Agenda item 4 (a), document EM/RC65/4)

This technical paper is one of four addressing the challenges and approaches of implementing GPW 13 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. It focuses on the global target of 1 billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage by 2023. What do the countries of the Region need to do to meet their share of that target? The paper analyzes regional progress in advancing towards universal health coverage, identifies significant challenges and gaps, and calculates the potential regional contribution to global goal of 1 billion as improvement in service coverage by 2023 if WHO recommendations are implemented. Based on the analysis, some key actions are recommended to help countries advance towards UHC.

4. Protecting people from the impact of health emergencies (Agenda item 4(b), document EM/RC65/5)

This technical paper focuses on the global target of ensuring that 1 billion more people are better protected from health emergencies by 2023. It aims to give a preliminary estimate of the potential impact of improved emergency preparedness in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Based on a risk assessment conducted in February 2018, it identifies 23 potential hazards that currently and/or could require intervention in the Region plus several factors that increase vulnerability to risk and some significant gaps and challenges in emergency preparedness. Full achievement of the public health capacities required under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) to effectively prevent, detect and rapidly respond to any public health threat is still a work in progress, and the paper estimates IHR implementation levels for each country of the Region by 2023 if proposed WHO strategic directions and country recommendations are implemented.

5. Promoting health and well-being (Agenda item 4(c), document EM/RC65/6)

This technical paper focuses on the global target of 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being. It presents a regional approach centred on promoting health and well-being throughout the life course using Health in All Policies (HiAP). GPW 13 identifies five platforms to support people towards better health and well-being, and this paper concentrates on three of them: improving human capital across the life course; accelerating action on preventing noncommunicable diseases and promoting mental health; and addressing health effects of climate change. While WHO is already working extensively with Member States to promote the health of their populations, significant challenges remain. The paper proposes four new frameworks for action to guide Member States in making informed decisions and investments in relation to health promotion.

6. Optimizing WHO's performance: countries at the centre (Agenda item 4(d), document EM/RC65/7)

GPW 13 sets ambitious global targets for public health, and to help countries achieve those targets WHO needs to transform the way it works so that its normative and technical work focuses more sharply on, and translates directly into, a measurable difference in people's health at country level. This technical discussion paper outlines how the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is responding to the challenge. A functional review of each country office is being undertaken to identify priority issues and how WHO can best support governments and other stakeholders in addressing them. The in-depth review will define the operating model and the workforce distribution and skills needed to improve the impact of WHO's work in each specific country context.

7. Private sector engagement for advancing universal health coverage (Agenda item 4(e), document EM/RC65/8)

The private sector – defined for the purpose of this paper as formal, for-profit health service providers – is an important provider of health services in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, particularly in countries where government spending on health is low and in countries experiencing emergencies. However, generally the private health sector has grown with little public policy direction and is not part of government health sector planning in many countries of the Region. It is thus an untapped resource in the context of UHC. This technical paper aims to help fill that gap. It proposes a framework for action for effective engagement with the private health sector to advance towards UHC, outlining possible interventions for Member States to consider and describing how WHO and development partners could support such action.

8. Resolutions and decisions of regional interest adopted by the Seventy-first World Health Assembly and the Executive Board at its 142nd and 143rd Sessions (Agenda item 5(a), document EM/RC65/9)

The paper highlights resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2018 which have direct relevance to or implications for the Region, and a direct link with regional priorities. In addition, it provides a summary of the steps and actions being taken to implement specific resolutions relating to regional and country needs.

9. Review of the draft provisional agenda of the 144th Session of the WHO Executive Board (Agenda item 5(b), document EM/RC65/9-Annex 1)

The Regional Committee will review the draft provisional agenda of the 144th Session of the Executive Board (January 2019).

10. Draft WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change (Agenda item 5(c), document EM/RC65/10)

The Executive Board at its 142nd Session requested the Director-General, *inter alia*, to develop a draft comprehensive global strategy on health, environment and climate change, to be considered by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly in May 2019, through the Executive Board at its 144th session in January 2019. In accordance with decision WHA65(9) (2012), the regional committees are asked to comment and provide input on the draft strategy.

11. Development of the road map on access to medicines and vaccines (Agenda item 5(d), document EM/RC65/11)

In May 2018, the Seventy-first World Health Assembly requested the Director General to elaborate a road map, in consultation with Member States, outlining the programming of WHO's work on access to medicines and vaccines for the period 2019–2023, including activities, actions and deliverables. This information note outlines the process through which that road map will be developed.

12. Development of a draft global action plan on the health of refugees and migrants (Agenda item 5(e), document EM/RC65/12)

This document has been prepared for consultation with Member States at the sessions of the regional committees in 2018, in order to develop a draft global action plan on the health of

refugees and migrants, as requested by the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017 in resolution WHA70.15. Following consultation, the draft global action plan will be submitted for consideration by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly in 2019 through the Executive Board at its 144th session.

13. Nomination of a Member State to the Joint Coordinating Board on the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Disease (Agenda item 6, document EM/RC65/13)

Afghanistan's membership of the Joint Coordinating Board on the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Disease expires on 31 December 2018. There will thus be a vacancy and the 65th session of the Regional Committee will need to select (or reselect) one government for a four-year period from 1 January 2019. Governments selected under the relevant rule (paragraph 2.2.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding: governments selected by WHO regional committees) represent not only their own Member State but also the whole Region, and the representative should fully recognize this responsibility and the need to report back to the Regional Committee.

14. Report of the third meeting of the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee (Agenda item 7, document EM/RC65/14)

The Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean held its third meeting on 2–3 April 2018, at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting was attended by experts nominated by Member States to serve as members of the Programme Subcommittee, by incoming members as observers, and by WHO staff. The Sixty-fifth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean was seen as an opportunity for dedicated discussions on how the Region, Member States and Secretariat will implement GPW 13. Members agreed to the proposed agenda of the 65th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, and agreed to hold the fourth meeting of the Programme Subcommittee in Khartoum, Sudan, on 14 October 2018, prior to the Regional Committee.

15. Award of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize and Fellowship (Agenda item 8(a), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.9)

The Executive Board, at its 142nd Session approved the nomination of Dr Assad Hafeez (Pakistan) for the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize for 2018. The prize will therefore be awarded to Dr Hafeez during the 65th session of the Regional Committee.

16. Award of the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Agenda item 8(b), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.10)

In Decision No. 7 of the 64th session of the Regional Committee, the Committee decided to award the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to Dr Mohamed Ebrahim Khamseh (Islamic Republic of Iran), based on the recommendation of the Foundation Committee for the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Prize will be presented to the laureate during the 65th session of the Committee.

17. Award of the Down Syndrome Research Prize (Agenda item 8(c), document EM/RC65/INF.DOC.11)

In decision No. 6 of the 64th session of the Regional Committee, the Committee decided to award the Down Syndrome Research Prize to Dr Salma Mohammed Al-Harasi (Oman), based on the recommendation of the Foundation Committee for the Down Syndrome Research Prize. The Prize will be presented to the laureate during the 65th session of the Committee.