



**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC63/1**

**Sixty-third Session  
Cairo, Egypt, 3–6 October 2016**

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

**1. Proposed Programme budget 2018–2019 (Agenda item 2, document EM/RC63/2)**

In line with the World Health Assembly's 2013 request to the Director-General (decision WHA66(9), the proposed Programme Budget 2018–2019 (excluding the Emergencies segment) was developed through a bottom-up planning process that identified priorities and proposed realistic costing of outputs. A new web-based tool was developed to support this Organization-wide process and the resulting plans have been reviewed at regional and global level. WHO's work in health emergency management was excluded from the initial identification of bottom-up priorities, as priorities for the new emergencies programme are being defined through a separate top-down approach. The draft Programme Budget document, reflecting the consolidated country, regional and global priorities, outputs and deliverables together with a budget breakdown by major office and country, will be presented to the Regional Committee. The draft will incorporate the proposed results framework for the new emergency programme and the additional budget allocations. The Regional Committee is invited to review and discuss the draft Programme Budget and advise the Secretariat of its considerations which will be incorporated into the revised draft Programme Budget to be reviewed by the Executive Board in January 2017.

**2. Annual Report of the Regional Director 2015, including progress reports (Agenda item 3, document EM/RC63/3)**

The Annual Report of the Regional Director covers 2015 and early 2016. It focuses on the major work undertaken in regard to the strategic priorities endorsed by the Regional Committee in 2012: health systems strengthening towards universal health coverage; maternal and child health; noncommunicable diseases; communicable diseases, particularly health security; and emergency preparedness and response, as well as WHO management and reform. 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/RC63/INF.DOC.1)
- Emerging and re-emerging diseases including dengue and dengue haemorrhagic fever (Agenda item 3(c), document EM/RC63/INF.DOC.2)
- Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (Agenda item 3(d), document EM/RC63/INF.DOC.3)
- Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) (Agenda item 3(e), document EM/RC63/INF.DOC.4)
- Universal health coverage and the development of a package of essential health services (Agenda item 3(f), document EM/RC63/INF.DOC.5).

### **3. Scaling up family practice: progressing towards universal health coverage (Agenda item 4(a), document EM/RC63/Tech.Disc.1)**

Provision of integrated health services is an integral dimension of universal health coverage. The 60th session of the Regional Committee in 2013, in resolution EM/RC60/R.2 on universal health coverage, urged Member States and WHO to expand the provision of integrated health services based on primary health care. Experience shows that integrated primary health care services can be best provided through the family practice approach. Family practice can be defined as the health care services provided by a family physician and his/her multidisciplinary team that are characterized by comprehensive, continuous, coordinated, collaborative, personal, family and community-oriented services. This paper presents an analysis of the situation of family practice in the Region based on an assessment by WHO. Apart from a few exceptions, the countries of the Region are generally at a low level of family practice development, with an acute shortage of family physicians. The paper outlines the challenges to scaling up family practice and describes transitional and long-term strategies for overcoming the shortage of family physicians in the Region. A framework for action for advancing family practice towards universal health coverage in the Region is proposed that outlines actions for Member States to consider and WHO support in this.

### **4. Improving access to assistive technology (Agenda item 5(a), document EM/RC63/4)**

Assistive technology, a subset of health technology, refers to assistive products whose primary purpose is to maintain an individual's functioning and independence and thereby promote their well-being. Without assistive technology, people in need are often excluded, isolated and locked into poverty, and the burden of morbidity and disability increases. Improving access to assistive technology can lead to reduced health and social welfare costs and enable people with functioning difficulties to work and to contribute to the national economy and development agenda. This paper reviews assistive technology in the current regional context and summarizes, based on available evidence, current challenges and emerging opportunities to move forward in improving access to assistive technology in the Region. It also identifies priorities and associated options to accelerate progress, emphasizing the roles and responsibilities of both Member States and WHO in achieving this common goal.

### **5. Strategic frameworks for strengthening health laboratories and blood transfusion services (Agenda item 5(b), document EM/RC63/5, EM/RC63/6)**

Health laboratories and blood transfusion services are an essential part of all health systems and are fundamental to their goal of improving health. Despite steady progress towards strengthening health laboratories and blood transfusion services in the Region, substantial challenges remain in laboratory capacity to support certain disease-specific programmes, and in making sufficient supplies of safe blood and blood products available and accessible. Through a broad consultative process with Member States, partners and experts working in the field, WHO has developed two strategic documents to address these challenges. The strategic framework for action for strengthening health laboratory services (2016–2020) aims to guide the strengthening of national health laboratory systems to improve clinical and public health services. The regional strategy and framework for action for blood safety and availability (2016–2025) aims to guide countries in developing and strengthening national blood systems to ensure the supply of safe and efficacious blood and blood components to meet the national need.

### **6. Resolutions and decisions of regional interest adopted by the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly and the Executive Board at its 138th and 139th Sessions (Agenda item 6(a), document EM/RC63/7)**

The paper highlights resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2016 that have direct relevance to or implication for the Region, and a direct link with many of the priority activities of the Region. In addition, it provides a summary of the steps and actions being taken in implementing specific resolutions relating to regional and country needs.

## **7. Review of the draft provisional agenda of the 140th Session of the WHO Executive Board (Agenda item 6(b), document EM/RC63/7-Annex 1)**

The Regional Committee will review the draft provisional agenda of the 140th Session of the Executive Board (January 2017).

## **8. Governance reform (Agenda item 6(c), document EM/RC63/8)**

Since 2011 the Executive Board and World Health Assembly have issued a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening and increasing the harmonization of the procedures and processes of the Governing Bodies across the Organization. The Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean decided in 2012 to revise several of its rules of procedure (Decision no. 3). This paper proposes: 1) a number of further amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee regarding (a) the nomination of the Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean and introducing a code of conduct related to the same subject, and (b) the election of the Chair, two Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur of the Regional Committee to ensure equitable opportunity for all countries to chair the Regional Committee and to eliminate the practice of designating a chair of the Technical Discussions to be in line with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure; 2) the establishment of a Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee with specific terms of reference and rotating membership; and 3) the process of nominating members from the Region to the Executive Board and World Health Assembly.

## **9. Nomination of the Regional Director (Agenda item 7, document EM/RC63/WP.1)**

As per Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, the Regional Committee will consider, in a private meeting, the nomination of the Regional Director.

## **10. Award of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize and Fellowship**

The Executive Board, at its 138th Session approved the nomination of Dr Walid Ammar (Lebanon) for the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize for 2016. The prize will therefore be awarded to Dr Ammar during the 63rd Session of the Regional Committee.

## **11. Award of the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

Following Decision No. 3 of the 62nd Session of the Regional Committee, the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean will be awarded to Dr Nizal Sarrafzadegan (Islamic Republic of Iran) during the opening of the 63rd session of the Regional Committee.

## **12. Award of the Down Syndrome Research Prize**

The Regional Committee, at its 62nd Session in October 2015, decided not to award the Down Syndrome Research Prize in 2015. In accordance with Article 5 of the statutes of the Foundation Committee for the Down Syndrome Research Prize, the Prize is awarded once every two years. Nominations will be solicited in 2017 applying the criteria for selection which were revised as recommended by the Foundation Committee in 2015.